



**Keira Knightley Has Plenty To Atone For**  
**Poirier Brings Bountiful Booty**  
**Local Actors Name Their "Dream Roles"**  
**Hip-Hop For Hunger Drops Mad Eats**

**WISHING YOU A JOYOUS OLIVUS!**

DECEMBER 20, 2007  
**ISSUE 734**



SMOKE-FREE

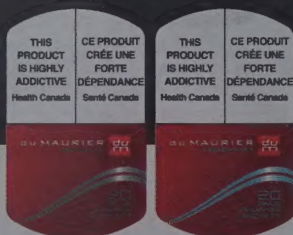


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cover illustration by Genevieve Simms



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Can Judd Apatow wring one more bit from his dick-joke factory?

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“I’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ONE OF THE CATS IN A TOURING PRODUCTION OF CATS SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDWEST. IN MY DREAMS, THIS IS A BIT LIKE *SHOWGIRLS* AND A BIT LIKE *ALL THAT JAZZ*, AND PROBABLY NOT MUCH LIKE CATS.”



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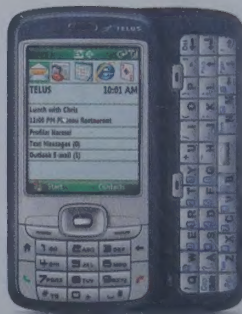


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Xcell Communications  
4909 99th St.  
Fort Saskatchewan  
Associated Telecom  
9914 103rd St.  
Cambridge Electronics  
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sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday



Social Code at Century Casino.



Rise Against headline at Jingle Bell Rock, Dec. 20.

DECEMBER 23



Add rum or brandy to eggnog, sprinkle with nutmeg.

DECEMBER 24

'twas the night before | TAKE AN EVENING STROLL DOWN CANDY CANE LANE, 148 Street between 92 Ave. & 100 Ave. Bring a donation for the Food Bank.

DECEMBER 25

christmas | IS THERE ANYTHING MORE FESTIVE THAN SEEING A MOVIE ON JESUS' BIRTHDAY? Especially another *Alien Vs. Predator* movie? We think not. *Requiem* opens nationwide.

DECEMBER 26

boxing day | SLEEP. RECOVER. HIDE. Then check out The Franklins at The Pawn Shop.

DECEMBER 27

post mortem | THE CROWDS HAVE DIED DOWN. Now go spend your gift card riches.

DECEMBER 28

theatre | RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S *SOUTH PACIFIC* runs at Festival Place until Jan 6.

DECEMBER 29

clubbing | SADLY, IT'S THE LAST SATURDAY EVER AT THE ROOST, the oldest operative gay bar in Canada. Sniff sniff.

DECEMBER 30

star gazing | CHRISTMAS UNDER THE DOME AT THE TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE is sure to stun the worst holiday hangover right out of you. Laser shows set to festive favourites. Yikes.

DECEMBER 31

party party party | IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE. If you don't have tickets by now, you can still check out the free show downtown with all the kiddies.

JANUARY 01

new year's day | WE RESOLVE TO BE A LITTLE LESS PESSIMISTIC. C'mon now, who are we kidding?

JANUARY 02

shopping | WHATEVER WAS 50% OFF ON BOXING DAY IS NOW 75% OFF. A good time to get started on Christmas '08...

JANUARY 03



Back to the daily grind...



It's coming...

ZOLTAN VARADI | PAGE 29



IRANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GREENLIT THE FIRST SERIES OF CONCERTS BY A WESTERNER SINCE THE SHAH FELL. AS IF THE PEOPLE OF THAT NATION HAVEN'T SUFFERED ENOUGH, NOW ALL THEY HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IS... CHRIS DE BURGH?!

see magazine's two week forecast of events in edmonton

listings: news pg 12 | city life pg 16 | new years pg 25 | music pg 25 | movies pg 25 | arts pg 27

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**This Week**  
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**HEAVENLY BLUES BAND**  
**DEC 17 - 22**

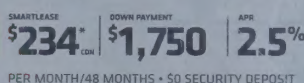
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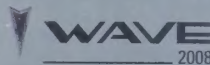
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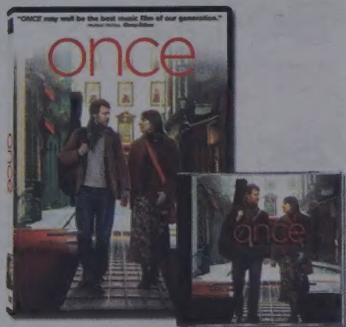
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—Michael Phillips, *Chicago Tribune*



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“THERE WASN'T ANY INFORMATION ON HOW LONG THE TRIP WOULD TAKE, HOW THE BUS CONNECTIONS WOULD CHANGE, HOW OFTEN THE TRAINS WOULD RUN.... I FIND THIS VERY TROUBLING

FEATURE • PUBLIC TRANSIT • ANGELA BRUNSCHOT / 705 words

# The Trains Aren't Running NAIT



Transit Woes | Kerri Wyspianski at the Kingsway bus depot. PHOTO BY JASON SCOTT

## AS THE LRT LINE INCHES NORTH, WILL NAIT CONTINUE TO BE ABANDONED AT THE STATION?

Kerri Wyspianski wishes she could take public transportation more often. Even though the student union president at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology was an avid public transit user before attending NAIT, Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) to the college is so dismal she now rides the bus only when it's absolutely necessary.

"Often the bus doesn't work with my schedule," she says. "I'm either 45 minutes early or 10 minutes late. [Also,] because we are the last major stop on the bus routes, we're often asked to wait for the next bus, which is an hour wait. That just doesn't work for me."

So when ETS announced a new LRT line with a planned stop on Princess Elizabeth Avenue serv-

ing NAIT, she was thrilled, but not totally won over. NAIT has three Edmonton campuses, and NAIT students are often apprentices with trade jobs in industrial areas. The single LRT station near the main campus doesn't do much to address their transit needs. Not to mention the fact that the NAIT station is considered "temporary."

The northern leg of the LRT comes up to street level from Churchill station and heads west to Grant MacEwan before heading north to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Kingsway Garden Mall, and NAIT ETS' current plans involve tearing down the current Kingsway transit hub on the south side of the mall; the temporary NAIT station will sit on Princess Elizabeth Avenue on the north side of Kingsway Mall.

"We'd build it basically to be flexible, so that if we needed to move it in the future we could," says ETS senior planner Brad Smid. "If it does stay

there, we will build it so that it lasts as well, because we don't know when that next extension further north of here would happen." (For an idea of the money involved here, consider that the city estimates the cost of building a station on the South LRT at Harry Ainlay High School at between \$10 and \$15 million.)

The North LRT line can't wait until city council approves long-range plans, says Smid. And the LRT line also can't stop short of NAIT because the college needs the connection. "If it is a 20-year gap between when this line gets built and when the future extension north of NAIT gets built," Smid says, "well, then it's not really like you are throwing away money on a station because it's going to be there operating for quite a while."

ETS faces plenty of other challenges in the neighbourhood. LRT crossings at 111 and Kingsway Avenues are significant hurdles and funding for the project has yet to be

approved. Other than the route and station locations, the public meeting on Tuesday, December 11 didn't offer much information, says Brian Gould, spokesperson for the Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton.

"There wasn't any information on how long the trip would take," he says. "How the bus connections would change, how often the trains would run.... I find this very troubling."

Not that either Wyspianski or Gould want to seem ungrateful. Both want more LRT built in Edmonton. Although NAIT is not part of the student U-Pass program, Wyspianski supports the concept. The universal pass was introduced in September for Edmonton's college and university students. NAIT didn't sign on to the program because ETS doesn't service NAIT sufficiently—and Wyspianski doubts whether an LRT station will change the situation.

Unlike the University of Alberta

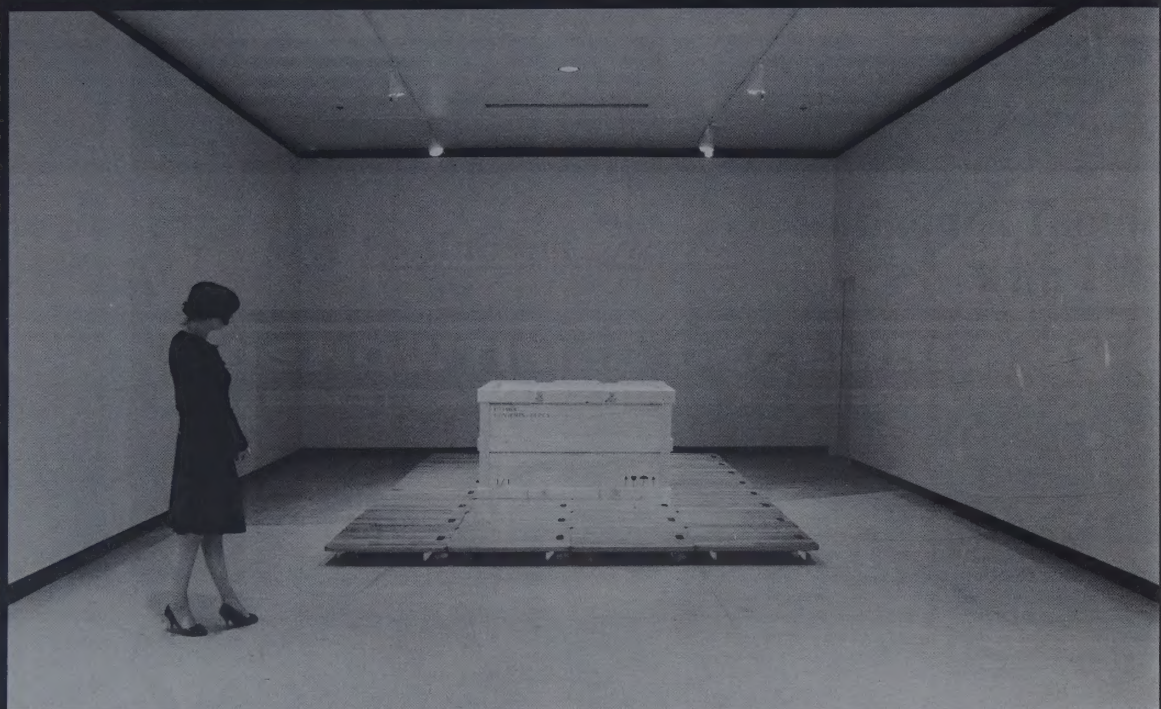
(which has two LRT stations on campus and has good bus service) or MacEwan (which can take advantage of the many downtown transit connections), NAIT students had little incentive to get on board with the U-Pass. For students traveling to the West Edmonton Mall area, a trip on public transit can last up to two hours, according to Wyspianski. There's little service between NAIT and the Strathcona area, either, and an LRT line isn't going to help apprentices working in the industrial areas. "To pay for a service that we are not really getting," Wyspianski, "to force students to pay, just doesn't seem right."

City council will get its first look at the proposed route in January. The public gets another hearing in February and Smid will go back to council for final approval in June. The earliest NAIT students on the main campus could start riding the LRT to school is 2010.



**“No... I do not intend to ‘enter the world of ideas.’**

—Ralph Klein, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, to the National Post



## WITNESS

DECEMBER 18, 2007 | 11:41:59 AM | ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA | PHOTO BY MERYL LAWTON

The FUN HOUSE exhibit features the work of nine Canadian artists who challenge expectations of reality and the objects within it. The exhibit continues at the gallery until January 6, 2008.

### OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

#### ALBERTA • INFORMATION THE PRICE OF DEMOCRACY

\$7000. It's kind of like a democracy surcharge. It's as if the government says, "We'll let you vote for nothing, but accountability is going to cost you extra."

It's nice enough, we guess, that Alberta Energy won't make environmental watchdog Martha Kostuch cough up \$7000 to find out who did what research when about the impact increased royalties would have on the province's coffers. But they wanted to. Only in Alberta could "Freedom of Information" cost so much.

But if these documents can be made public... then why aren't they public already? The Internet has crushed whatever barriers there might once have been to getting the information out. Post PDFs. Let anyone download them. If they need them on paper, they can print them.

Because—take note, Alberta Energy—we've already paid for what's in those documents.

#### EDMONTON • HOCKEY ARENA DREAMS

There's no denying that central Edmonton is crying out for more traffic congestion. That's just one reason why the idea of a new downtown pro hockey barn has struck a chord with so many.

Of course, some of them are probably also thinking about the "great opportunity to redevelop the province's capital city," as sports economist Mark Rosentraub told the *Edmonton Journal* on Saturday.

But before anyone gets too excited about Daryl Katz's promise of \$100 million to help build an arena, note that Rosentraub suggests that it's billion-dollar projects that can make economic sense.

And we should probably consider this passage from his 1999 book *Major League Losers*: "The sports welfare system exists because state and local government leaders, dazzled by promises of economic growth... failed to do their homework."

#### ALBERTA • MEDIA POLITICAL HOTLINE

Far from comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable, Alberta's conservative columnists are invariably more than happy to comfort the comfortable. That will come as a surprise to no one.

Nor would anyone be surprised to learn that a winking relationship exists between some journalists and the province's Conservatives. Some might raise an eyebrow, however, to learn that when the provincial Tories say "bend over," our chattering classes ask only "how cravenly?"

As Jeremy Kiaszus reports in Calgary's *Fast Forward*, former Calgary Sun editor Paul Jackson wrote a column supporting Jonathan Denis for the Tory nomination in Calgary-Egmont, despite having previously supported Craig Chandler. When Chandler demanded an explanation, Jackson emailed, "I got an urgent call from the premier's office asking me to call Jonathan. What else could I do?"

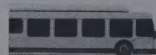
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COMMENTARY • DESCRIPTION • BY WIL KYNCL 1,398 words

# A Wonderful Day For Olivus

## LET'S DUMP THE EMPTY GREETINGS AND JOIN HANDS FOR ONE BIG SMORGABRATION

"Season's Greetings!" "All the best of the season!" "Happy Holidays!"

But which season, exactly, or which holiday? The standard greetings during this hyper-commercialized segment of the calendar are meant to be open-ended, to include as many and offend as few as possible.

And rest assured, there's nothing that offends more than a poorly received expression of goodwill. Consider four New York subway riders who, having been wished a "Merry Christmas" last week by a group of fellow passengers, responded "Happy Hanukkah." The result: a verbal and physical assault, brimming with the spirit of the season. (The saviour in this case was a Muslim student who rushed to the aid of his Jewish fellow travelers.)

So non-specific holiday blessings—er, sentiments—are practical necessities, but they're compromises. "Season's Greetings!" really means, "I hope you don't mind, but... we're all taking a few days off and I wanted to say that I hope you have a good time. I don't really know what religion you practice, if any, but if you're Christian, I hope you don't mind my taking the middle road. If you're something else, then it sucks that the dominant culture gives your faith short shrift. I hope things go well for you anyway." Come to think of it, "season's greetings" is a triumph of economy. Unfortunately, it encompasses only two possibilities: Christian... or Other.

Sure, Christmas dominates our nominally plural society. But Hanukkah's early presence this year gave it some spotlight. On the other hand, Bodhi Day (the Buddha's Enlightenment was experienced on December 8) was entirely overshadowed. The Hindu/Jain/Sikh Festival of Light, Diwali, really kicked things off back in November. Kwanzaa is sometimes tacked onto a greeting if the recipient celebrates it. But what about Eid al-Adha? Or Yule, the ancient celebration of the solstice? Or Festivus, the aging hipster anti-holiday, with its aluminum pole and ritual "airing of the grievances"? Are we are supposed to assume that the best wishes of these popular festivals are included in these generic, catchall holiday lines? What about the agnostics and atheists who just feel like celebrating the joy of family and feasting?

This jam-packed festive season deserves better. Everyone is in the spirit to celebrate as winter's icy grasp closes on us. But how do you choose? The abundance of festivals in Edmonton's wonderful multi-eth-

nic culture can leave you drained if you travel in circles that include Muslims, expect to celebrate the end of the Hajj with them in Eid al-Adha on December 20. Buddhists would have stayed up all night in meditation on December 7, the night before Bodhi Day. Wiccans will gather for the Yule on the winter solstice, December 21, and Hindus are probably still fondly remembering Diwali.

The importance of a person's faith shouldn't be ignored, of course, but wouldn't it be great if we could unite in a common bond of time and place to forge our own holiday? One that draws a little from every rite so that everyone can feel included?

We're wishing people the best of the season, anyway. Why would it hurt to be specific? Feel free to wish people a Merry Christmas, but won't you feel better if you toss in "...and Happy Olivus?"

Let's consider what it might look like.

First of all, we tie all of the celebrations to the winter solstice. This is the longest night of the year, after which we draw closer to the sun's warming rays. It is the only constant available to every calendar—Gregorian, Hebrew, Islamic, or Persian—used to time their festivities. Northern Europeans did it before they converted to Christianity in such staggering numbers. We'll ask Muslims to agree to end the Hajj on that day, Jews to place Zot Hannukah (the final day) on the solstice, and baby Jesus to be born a few days earlier. Buddha will have waited an extra couple of weeks for his Enlightenment. Now that we have the timing right, we just need a story for parents to sit down and tell their children by the light of paper lanterns and burning Yule logs.

### The Beginning

Jesus was born on the solstice of Year One CE, in Israel. This was also the final day of an eight-day celebration that the Jews in Bethlehem used to observe the miracle of the container of oil with the nightly lighting of the menorah. The popularity of this festival in the Hebrew city of Bethlehem had drawn all of the people from the countryside, and there was no room to be found at any inn.

The night of the birth, one kind owner offered the pregnant couple a spot in his stable, with a special holiday discount on the regular rate. A strangely modern man, the supports of his stable were made of aluminum poles with very high strength-to-weight ratios.

There, a traveling group of followers of Siddhartha Gotama were also bedded down. They were deep in meditation and didn't notice the

hugely pregnant woman and her anxious companion. She found their chanting quite soothing. Another group was passing through the area and seized on the only shelter available. Late returning from Mecca, the group was hurrying home to celebrate with their families and welcomed the couple.

When the child was born, three Kings of the East approached. Their servants lit lamps to guide their way to the stable, as they had every year to celebrate the return of Lord Rama and the killing of the demon Narasura. These Kings asked that the whole group, or "all of us," could celebrate together. The woman's companion, remembering the teachings of his Northern European grandmother, ritually slaughtered a turkey from the inn and all feasted on its meat by the light of the single sacred log that burned brightly enough to light the scene. That became the first Olivus celebration, which each group brought back to their home countries.

As each shared their traditions and celebrated together, the exhausted mother chastised the group. They each ended up airing their grievances and then her companion challenged them all to a wrestling match

before he sent them away. The various groups, having eaten and drunk their fill in the company of new friends and old, wandered off into the brightening dawn. The mother and child finally got to sleep and the man cleaned up afterwards.

### Modern Observances

These days, the Olivus winter solstice festival is shared among every faith, and celebrated by skeptics. Children wake up Olivus morning after a late night of meditation and dash downstairs to see what Santa Claus brought. Under the paper lanterns and multicoloured lights wrapped around a stark aluminum pole, they tear into their gifts. In each stocking is a new dreidel. Every child receives a suit of new clothes and "gelt," or money. They wake their parents to the tune of "A Wonderful Day for Olivus" and everyone sits down to the first feast of the day.

The afternoon is passed in charity: whether working in the community or giving to those in need. The dinner feast includes the halal, ritual sacrifice of the kosher household turkey to Allah, the Mother Goddess and Lakshmi. The group airs their grievances about each other and discusses the concept of unity (umojia),

the first of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa they will discuss for the next six nights. The final kinara candle of the menorah is lit at sunset and then the skits, performances, and drumming begin. Fireworks cap the celebration, after which are the Feats of Strength, where the head of the household must be pinned in a (thumb) wrestling match.

The celebration draws to a close as the sky lightens in the east. A strong cup of coffee and wishes of "May Olivus bring you peace!" send friends and family on their way. All of the women in the household retire to their beds, while the men are tasked to clean up before retiring themselves.

A seasonal celebration that we can all share makes financial, calendrical, and social sense. We can each observe our traditional holidays, but let's get together to celebrate Olivus. Businesses can authorize an Olivus party without fear of offending anyone, and greeting card companies can finally stop mowing down forests for the infinite variety of cards in favour of a single warm wish: All the Best on Olivus.

Who's with us?

Your Olivus gift is in the mail.

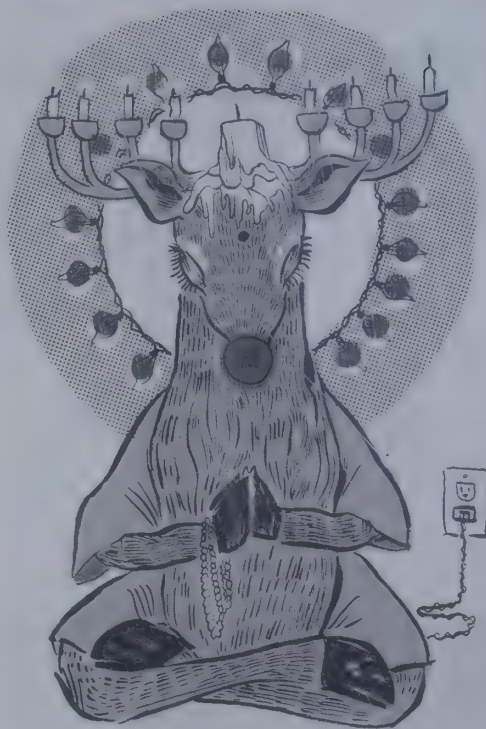


Illustration © Genevieve Simms

# Media Lapdogs Lap Up Brian



**WATCHDOG LINDA MCQUAIG  
INCURIOUS SCRIBES NOT  
INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING  
THE MONEY**

The media often are accused of fanning the flames of controversy. But in the drama surrounding Brian Mulroney, it seems to be trying at times to bring a raging fire under control.

With some notable exceptions—such as investigative journalists Harvey Cashore, Linden McIntyre, Greg McArthur and commentator Andrew Coyne—there's been a surprisingly biased attitude from some leading journalists and media commentators toward the startling implications of the Mulroney-Schreiber saga.

In an extreme example of journalistic indifference, *Ottawa Citizen* columnist Dan Gardner suggested that the \$300,000 cash payment former prime minister Mulroney received from lobbyist Karlheinz Schreiber shortly after leaving office is "greasy and dubious but it barely raises the needle of public significance above zero."

And last Thursday, when TVO host Steve Paikin asked political scientist Heather MacIvor what she found newsworthy that day—a day of explosive testimony—MacIvor responded: "I'm not sure there was anything particularly newsworthy."

MacIvor apparently didn't find newsworthy testimony that suggested the payments to Mulroney came from a Swiss bank account which contained "success fees" from projects advanced under the Mulroney government, including the \$1.8 billion sale of Airbus aircraft to Air Canada.

Later in the show, MacIvor, who teaches political science at the University of Windsor, commented that her students couldn't understand the "beating up on poor Mr. Mulroney."

Perhaps they don't understand because their political science professors don't explain why the public might be exercised over a former prime minister accepting envelopes full of cash from a man who had been a notorious lobbyist.

Schreiber testified that Mulroney had been told he would receive funds from a lobbying firm representing Airbus after he left office. If Schreiber's allegations are true—and they have not been proven in court—it suggests that Mulroney may have agreed while he was in office to accept what amounts to a secret commission. Canadian law prohibits government officials from accepting secret commissions.

It is irrelevant whether a benefit is only received after the official has left office, if an agreement was made while the official held office, according to Fred Federsen, a criminal lawyer who has handled cases involving secret commissions.

Meanwhile, on CBC's *The National*, Rex Murphy complained that we're paying too much attention to Schreiber, a man fighting extradition. "Why are we listening to Sch-

reiber?" Murphy asked.

Well, the reason we're finally listening to Schreiber is that his allegation about the \$300,000 payment to Mulroney—long ignored by the media—was recently demonstrated to be true, when Mulroney admitted to belatedly paying tax on the money.

For years, Mulroney had been evasive, even suing the government when it attempted to investigate him and downplaying his dealings with Schreiber.

After confirming the \$300,000 payment earlier this fall, Mulroney spokesman Luc Lavoie switched tack, explaining that Mulroney had been short of cash and his family had certain lifestyle expectations.

That should clear up any remaining controversy.

As we all know, being short of cash is always considered an adequate explanation. Just look at our courts. Judges get soft-hearted whenever someone explains that he was only trying to meet certain lifestyle expectations.

It's an argument that works every time. Just try it.

## ACTIVISM

**ACTIVIST AGENDA** An online newsletter resource for activism related events in Edmonton, with up-to-date information on sustainable practices, networking, and active organizations in the city. Supplied and maintained by Earth's General Store (10832-82 Ave. upstairs, 439-8725). <http://www.egs.ca>. Info also available in-store.

**BIKE WORKS** Fix your own bike. Edmonton Bicycle Computers' BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers. Hours vary by season, call ahead: 433-2451. <http://www.edmontonbikes.ca>.

**COUNCIL OF CANADIANS** 3RD WED EVERY MONTH Independent public interest organization promoting economic justice, democracy, and asserting Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500.

**EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION** 3RD WED EVERY MONTH Pressers' association, and production volunteers on an ongoing basis. Info: 434-9236 or [contact@edmontonpress.org](mailto:contact@edmontonpress.org).

**FRIENDS OF LUBICON ALBERTA** THU 4 PM **APRIS OFFICE** HUB MALL, U OF A CAMPUS Grassroots solidarity organization demanding fair and just settlement for the Lubicon Cree in Northern Alberta. <http://www.lubicon.org>. **GETTING ACTIVE FOR 9/11 TRUTH** Info: [www.edmonton911truth.com](http://www.edmonton911truth.com).

**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD** 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7 PM **U OF A CAMPUS** Grassroots solidarity organization demanding fair and just settlement for the Lubicon Cree in Northern Alberta. Info: [www.lubicon.org](http://www.lubicon.org). **MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION** 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 8 AM-5 PM **FACULTY** ST-JEAN, 8406-91ST, RM 3-18 Organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Instruction in French, English, and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7331.

**PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE** MON, 5-7 PM **U OF A CAMPUS** 104-106, U OF A CAMPUS A youth group promoting anti-racism and diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or [www.naen.org](http://www.naen.org).

### HOT PICK

ACTIVIST (EDMONTON)

Sierra Club

Environmental activists and lobby government for better environmental laws.

[www.sierraclub.ca/grain](http://www.sierraclub.ca/grain)

**SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA** Prairie Chapter works with ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: [www.sierraclub.ca/prairie](http://www.sierraclub.ca/prairie).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT** 4TH FR EVERY MONTH, 7 PM **THEATRE** 1000-1010 ST. Screenings resume JAN 25. Co-sponsored by the Unity Church of Edmonton Social Justice Committee, CESC, and Not Just Tourists. \$5 donation or PIVC at the door. Info: [notjusttourists@gmail.com](http://notjusttourists@gmail.com).

**THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES** TUE, 7 PM **STEEPS TALK LOUNGE** 1015-82 AVE. DEC 25 "A Christmas Story". Screenings free. Info: 988-0105 or [michale@steepslea.com](mailto:michale@steepslea.com).

**UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE** LAST FR EVERY MONTH, 7 PM **BOYLE-MCKAY GALLERY** HEALTH CENTRE, 2ND FL. BOARDROOM, 108-26-95 ST. Info: [www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca), 422-5566.

**WOMEN IN BLACK** 1ST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH, 10-11 AM **STRATHCONA FARMERS' MARKET** 83 AVE. & 103 ST. International women's peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish and Arab women, opposing violence in all forms. All women, men, and children invited to attend the bi-weekly silent vigil. Info: 435-7051.

**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE** 2ND FR EVERY MONTH, 5 PM **REMEDY CAFE** 8831-109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings go to [www.facebook.com/jgroup.phpgid=3559275104](http://www.facebook.com/jgroup.phpgid=3559275104).

## READINGS & LECTURES

**LUNCH BY THE BOOKS** STANLEY & MILLER LIBRARY, 87 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE. Noon-hour discussions offered by the U of A's Faculty of Arts and the Edmonton Public Library. JAN 17 "Living A High Risk Lifestyle", discussing the depictions of violence against vulnerable women in media and law. Free, everyone welcome. Info: [www.uofaave.usalberta.ca/arts/lunchbythebooks.cfm](http://www.uofaave.usalberta.ca/arts/lunchbythebooks.cfm).

**POETRY OPEN STAGE** THU, 8 PM **NAKED CYBER CAFE** & ESPRESSO BAR, 10354 JASPER AVE. 425-9730 Open stage poetry readings and performances. All welcome.

**POETS' HAVEN READING SERIES** MON, 7 PM **UPPER CRUST CAFE**, 10909-86 AVE. Weekly readings, presented by the Strail of Poets Society. \$5 at the door. Info: 422-8216 or [www.strailofpoets.org](http://www.strailofpoets.org).

**POETS INK** THU, 7-9 PM ST. THOMAS CAFE, ST. ALBERT. Weekly writing evenings. Info: [www.poetsink.org](http://www.poetsink.org). **STORY SLAM** 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 8 PM **BLUE CHAIR CAFE**, 9624-76 AVE. Sign-up 7 pm. First ten writers only, allotted five minutes each. Info: [thebluechairproject@hotmail.com](mailto:thebluechairproject@hotmail.com).

## RANT ACID

### HEY GRINCH!

Stop raining on my Christmas parade! There I was, happily singing my little song and planning my little Christmas do and you had to come in and start your annual Grinch-fest with your "you can't do this," and your "you should be doing this," and your "well, I think..." When oh when will you realize that it's not all about you, that you can't—and shouldn't—control every little thing? It's Christmas, the time of giving and sharing and friendship. So, be a friend and shut yer gob.

SUBMIT YOUR BILF TO [RANTACID@SEE.GREATWEST.CA](mailto:RANTACID@SEE.GREATWEST.CA)

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FEB 21/22  
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CHRISTMAS • EMERGENCY GIFTS • BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 1321 words

# Last-Minute Santa

**HO-HO-HOLY CRAP, I JUST GOT A PRESENT FROM A GUEST I WASN'T EXPECTING—WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY GIVE THEM IN RETURN?**

Inevitably, there's always that one friend who drops by unexpectedly to wish you the best of the season, and presents you with a small token of their esteem. And, of course, you don't have a thing to give them in return. How small do you feel now?

It's a common quandary: even if you had all the money in the world, you probably still wouldn't have the time (or inclination) to find a thoughtful gift for everyone you might come in contact with over Christmas. But that doesn't mean they don't have something for you, and you're probably familiar with the awkwardness that attends one-way holiday gift-giving. "Oh, you really shouldn't have!" you exclaim, because you really wish that neighbour, co-worker, or acquaintance hadn't obligated you to respond in kind. You pledge that next time, you'll be ready to counter with a gift of your own that will keep your giving karma in balance.

Well, here it is next time. Unfortunately, being ready does require a bit of foresight. But if you plan well and use your imagination, you can minimize your incidental gift outlay and maybe end up with a few leftovers at the end of the season you can tuck away for last-minute birthday presents or, ideally, a treat for yourself.

Foresight also means having a box of generic Christmas cards and some giftwrap (or preferably gift bags) on hand to accompany those extemporaneous gifts you'll magically produce. Nothing gives you away like a present wrapped in that day's

newspaper. Here are a few more tips that'll help you save face during the holidays.

## Homemade Gift Certificates

The great thing about the holidays is that you get to see people you don't see very often. Tell that special someone you could stand to see them more than once in a calendar year with a homemade gift certificate (hand-drawn or computer-generated) that entitles them to a meal in your dining room, a night out bowling or the avails of some talent you possess, to be redeemed later.

Lacking specialized talent? Offer childcare, dog-sitting or some other service that gives the recipient a break from their responsibilities. Having a certificate devised in advance that you can fill out in a hurry and stick in a card will even make it look like you had the whole thing planned.

## Pick Up a Little Extra



Do you like wine? Gourmet coffee? Expensive chocolate bars? Fancy smokes? Jars of antipasto from the Italian Centre? The next time you replenish your own stock, buy a little extra and set it aside to be used as gifts. Stick a bow on that moderately priced but palatable Cabernet Sauvignon or bar of Ambriel organic dark chocolate with orange and you've saved face while proving your superior taste and discernment.

## Homemade = Cheap But Personal



A gift you've assembled yourself bespeaks craftiness and thoughtfulness in equal measure. Take advantage of the absurdly low price and ease of printing digital photos, then pick up inexpensive photo albums and jam in the year's special occasions, party candids, and fluke travel pix that actually look scenic to share with your friends. Little will they suspect your handmade gift cost less than \$10 (and about an hour of work) to execute.

Another hit is the homemade recipe book or box. Write a clutch of your favourite recipes on file cards, stick them into a book of handmade paper from 10,000 Villages, one of those cheap drugstore photo albums (with a bit of ornamentation) or into a decorative box and you're off the hook for another year.

## Mass-Gifting



You know who has really great taste in music? You do! You pride yourself on cultivating a wide-ranging

appreciation of song. Christmas is the perfect time to share this erudition with a specially curated mix CD highlighting a few of your favourite artists that you can give to any and everyone. If you make a few different playlists on your music-burning digital interface of choice, you can have a Christmas present in hand by the time your guest gets back from the bathroom.

Any foodstuff you can make in bulk is also good for mass-gifting. I recommend a easy to make and liability-free batch of granola in a decorative airtight container.

## Season's Readings

Edmonton is blessed with plenty of high-quality used and new bookstores that clear out remaindered titles. Go discover their hidden treasures, buy an armful and keep them handy to wrap and dispense as necessary. For instance, I recently bought Ken Kalfus' *A Disorder Peculiar to the Nation*, DBC Pierre's *Ludmilla's Broken English*, and James Meek's *The People's Act of Love* at the Book Cellar in HUB Mall—brand new, handsome, critically hailed volumes of fiction that cost around \$10 for all three.

A quick Internet search of recent Man Booker or Giller Prize winners should provide you with a list of possible titles that will make you look better-read than you are. Discount bookstores are also a rich source of art books, cookbooks, and home decoration books, which make fine generic gifts for sudden giving. Another play is to pull the subscription card out of your favourite magazine, write your friend's name on it and pop it in an envelope. That buys you a couple of weeks to actually pur-

chase the subscription for its recipient.

## Regifting

Somewhere in your home there's a present you received that you had no use for. Quickly! Go find that festive mail organizer, that candlestick holder, or bottle of fruit cream liqueur. No one is looking! Drop it in a gift bag and send it back out into the world to plague others with unwanted feelings of obligation. (I probably shouldn't admit this in print, but I'm often extra-careful when reading books to not mar the cover or break the spine to preserve their regifting value.)

## Online Donations

Christmas is a time to think of the less privileged, so hopefully you've already made plans to donate to a charitable organization that benefits those in need. But if you're just getting around to helping around others, websites like [www.oxfam.ca](http://www.oxfam.ca) allow you to purchase essential items for people in developing countries—everything from chickens (\$15) to tools (\$39) to safe drinking water (\$22)—with a mouse-click.

When you make a purchase, the site provides you with a gift card you can print out and sign informing your surprise guest recipient of the good their Christmas present is doing. World Vision Canada, the Red Cross, Sea Shepherd's Conservation Society, Water for People, and countless other charities have online donation services, or you can visit [www.givemeaning.org](http://www.givemeaning.org) and buy a gift card that allows your gift recipient to decide which charity projects he or she would like to support. Everybody wins!



# 15 minutes

Deidra Helmig | LAY CHAPLIN, WESTWOOD UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

PHOTO BY JESSICA MCGOVERN

Q&A WITH EDMONTONIANS BY JESSICA MCGOVERN

## SOLSTICE IS A PAGAN HOLIDAY, RIGHT?

Yes, but Solstice is something that's celebrated in different ways everywhere across the world. Thousands of years ago, when people lived off the land and agriculture was so important to them, having winter and a little light was a tough time to get through. So when they hit solstice, which is the shortest day of the year, they knew that spring was returning and so the celebration was a "we've made it through" kind of thing. Solstice was celebrated on a survival level.

## HOW DOES THAT APPLY TODAY?

The way that we celebrate it here is that yes, the sun is going to return, but also celebrating the darkness. One of the readings we do every year is called "The Nourishing Dark," which is about appreciating that this is a time for taking care of ourselves and having some quiet time to enjoy life and family, and just take it easy.

## SO IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS?

No, it's just at the same time of year. Actually, a lot of people think that Christmas was given that date, December 25, because the church wanted to deflect attention away from the pagan traditions.

## HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

On the night of the 21st, we have three different services to choose from—a family service, an adult-orientated service, and then a traditionally pagan service, where we discuss different gods and goddesses. There are three elements: one celebrating the darkness, then we celebrate the moment when darkness turns to light, and then the return of the light. In my family we do give Solstice gifts, but it's just like opening some Christmas gifts early. We usually try to do a Solstice meal with our friends, but with organizing the services, sometimes there's just not enough time.

## DO YOU THINK THAT THERE'S A STEREOTYPE AROUND THE TERM "PAGAN"?

I think so. I don't see it so much anymore because I'm surrounded by Unitarians who are open-minded, but I think most people still have this view of pagan as being a little bit out there, and maybe even a bit dark. But pagans are beautiful people and their rituals are based on kindness, and nature, and the earth. However, it is better here in a big city. I think if I went back to my hometown in Hinton and started talking about a pagan service, people would think I'd jumped off the deep end.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE EDMONTONIANS CELEBRATING SOLSTICE?

Y'know, I think people do celebrate solstice, they just don't know it. When we get to the shortest day of the year, just about everybody feels like "Oh, thank God, it's going to get brighter from now on." Because most people get up in the dark, go to work in the dark, and come home in the dark, so I think that people are really craving the light by December 21.

## WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT SOLSTICE MESSAGE FOR YOU?

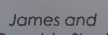
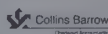
I guess a message of hope... that even in the darkest times, light is just around the corner.

# The Gathering:

## A Cultural Expression of Indigenous Arts

The Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association would like to offer our sincere thanks to the many Sponsors, Volunteers and Attendees, who made this year's gala, *The Gathering: A Cultural Expression of Indigenous Arts*, such a success.

**Happy Holidays!**



Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association | Website: [www.anfca.com](http://www.anfca.com) | Telephone: (780) 423-3138



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Bonus Cellular  
873 Grady Rd  
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Sherwood Park Mall  
Telcel Comm  
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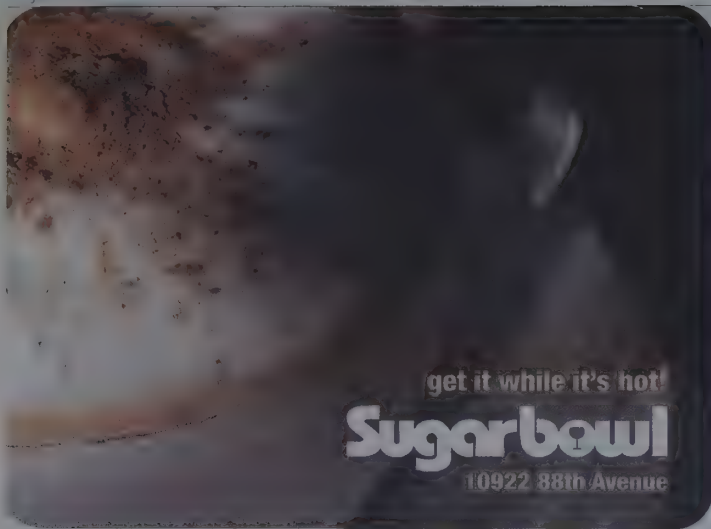
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Maria Franklin | Hostess, Crowne Plaza Hotel  
BY FAWNDA MITHRUSH

**Where:** Strolling along 101 Street.

**Hair:** I have my hair done at Exposed. Amber is my stylist there.

**Wearing:** My tan shoes are from Aldo. My sexy black pants are from Le Chateau. The jacket is also from Le Chateau, and the earrings too. My scarf and gloves are from a little shop in Montreal. I don't remember what it was called. I got these Chanel frames at Londonderry Optical. The bag I'm not sure—I got it as a gift.

**Into:** Ballroom dancing.

**Icons:** Catherine Zeta Jones. I love her style.



## CASUAL ELEGANT

**BACON** (6509-112 AVE.) This great little bohemian-chic restaurant offers a limited choice of familiar (ish) items done with some innovative twists. By pairing locally produced items with some deft hands in the kitchen, they manage to pull-off simple organic dishes that are worth remembering. ★★☆☆☆ (Aug 2007)

## FRENCH

**LA TABLE DE RENAISSANCE** (10046-101A AVE.) I can't think of a better way to spend your lunch hour or a warm summer evening than sitting out La Table de Renaissance patio enjoying one their traditionally prepared Provencal classics. A nice touch of cafe culture here in downtown Edmonton never hurt anyone. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

## BURGERS

**MOTORAUNT** (12406-66 ST.) Although the food is relatively good, the real reason for visiting MotorAunt is to see the physical structure of the place. To say it's unique hardly does it justice. Overall, it's a fun place to go and experience with some friends. Unless you've been before, you've likely never had an experience like MotorAunt. ★★☆☆☆ (Nov 2006)

## ITALIAN

**SANTOS PIZZA AND STEAK** (10821-95 ST.) Excellent place for a lunchtime sandwich in the heart of Edmonton's little Italy. It's not all fancy schmancy and uptight or anything, but then again it isn't all fancy schmancy and uptight. They offer good standard Italian fare, prepared well, at reasonable prices. What's not to like? ★★☆☆☆ (Sept 2006)

## MIDDLE EASTERN

**KAMIL'S TURKISH CAFE AND RESTAURANT** (12408-118 AVE.) If you're the type that can relax and just go with the flow and not be too off put by Kamil's location and informal nature, you might have a new favourite little spot for some down-home Turkish food. ★★☆☆☆ (Aug 2006)

## PIZZA

**FAMOSO NEAPOLITAN PIZZERIA** (11750 JASPER AVE.) If you're interested in good food in fast-food like atmosphere, or are looking for franchise opportunities, look no further than Famoso. They serve authentic Neapolitan pizzas, as per the regulations set out by the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana (V.P.N.) in a quick and in fact fashion. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2007)

**TONY'S PIZZA PALACE** (9605-111 AVE.) Without a doubt, Tony's is one of the top places in Edmonton for a traditional Italian pizza. Watching the guys in the kitchen hand toss the dough and banter back and forth can be just about as good as the food. ★★☆☆☆ (May 2006)

**DALLAS PIZZA & STEAKHOUSE** (7834-106 AVE.) Dallas is really your prototypical pizza and steakhouse type restaurant from a bygone era. But, given that the food is well-prepared, the service is good, and the price is reasonable, it makes me wonder why we've moved on? Give the Dallas a try and you'll find yourself asking the same thing. ★★☆☆☆ (Aug 2006)

## SOUTHEAST ASIAN

**BAN THAI** (15726-100 AVE.) Fairly authentic tasting Thai food in... how would I describe the surroundings... maybe fairly authentic as well? At any rate, the dishes are what I

imagine really good home-cooked food is like in Thailand. A bit pricey though. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

**NINH KIEU** (10708-99 ST.) If you're a fan of the venerable Vietnamese noodle soup pho, give the Ninh Kieu a try. Everything about the place is fairly standard and similar to what you would normally expect from this type of restaurant, except for the pho, which is really quite good. Ok, I guess the green onion cake is pretty good too. ★★☆☆☆ (Jan 2007)

**PURPLE DIAMOND RESTAURANT** (9645-101A AVE.) The Purple Diamond Restaurant offers a large variety of relatively authentic Vietnamese and Chinese dishes, depending on what you choose from the 109 menu items. The food is relatively fresh and well-prepared, and the surroundings are comfortable and clean. All in all, it's a good gamble. ★★☆☆☆

## KOSHER

**CAFE LEVI** (EUROPA BOULEVARD, WEM) You've got to be meshuggeneh if you think there's any better place for falafels in Edmonton. The next time you're at the mall and need a bite, do yourself a favour and give this kosher food counter a try for an orthodox take on traditional mall fare. ★★☆☆☆ (May 2006)

## CHINESE

**NEW TAN TAN** (10133-97 ST.) If you're an old dim sum veteran, you'll probably be happy enough with the New Tan Tan and its somewhat "rugged" style. But if you're new to this type of service and are looking for a dim sum for dum-dums first time experience, you might want to try someplace a little less... haggard? ★★☆☆☆ (Oct 2006)

## FINE DINING

**HARDWARE GRILL** (5998 JASPER AVE.) Arguably one of the best restaurants in Edmonton, Hardware Grill is one of the best restaurants in Edmonton. I warned however, if you go, it's an undertaking. Definitely not the type of place you just pop into with friends on a whim. It might be casual meal, prepared to last for at least a week before going, and hibernate afterwards (portion are way too big and priced accordingly). Definitely a special occasion restaurant. ★★☆☆☆ (Feb 2007)

**MADISON'S GRILL** (10053 JASPER AVE.) Without a doubt, Madison's is one of the top restaurants in Edmonton. The warm and comfortable surroundings make this a perfect place for a romantic getaway, or for that special occasion. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

## VEGETARIAN

**PADMANADI** (10626-81 ST.) Padmanadi offers wonderful Malaysian style vegetarian food at more than reasonable prices. Everything on the menu is vegan friendly, and everyone in the place is friendly to vegans. Or non-vegans for that matter. They're just plain nice. ★★☆☆☆ (Sept 2006)

## CAFÉ

**MILL CREEK CAFE** (5562-82 AVE.) If you're visiting Edmonton and staying downtown, walk south down the stairs at the MacDonald, cross the bridge, and head into Mill Creek ravine. Follow the path, go up the hill to the Mill Creek Pool parking lot and wander right to the Mill Creek Cafe for a light bite to eat. That way, you'll experience both the great geography and the small town hospitality we're so proud of. ★★☆☆☆ (Oct 2006)

## KOREAN

**GAYA** (11147-87 AVE.) ONE HOT little shiklang. Reasonably priced Korean food in hole-in-the-wall surroundings. Be prepared to wait for a table, and don't expect to linger after you've finished. Well worth it nonetheless. ★★☆☆☆ (Nov 2006)

## INDIAN

**TANDOORI GRILL EXPRESS & MONTREAL DELI** (6508-55 ST.) Despite the old menu, these folks are really capable of some fine cuisine. If you go, spend some time chatting with the folks and see if they can prepare any of your favourites. If so, you just might find that you have a new favourite tandoori restaurant in town. ★★☆☆☆ (Dec 2006)

**HAWELI** (10220-103 ST.) Tasty food and excellent naan bread, but I warned—they do a lunch buffet. If that's your thing, this could well be your place. If it's not your thing, I'd say maybe try Haweli dinner. I think (Feb 2007) maybe try Haweli for dinner. ★★☆☆☆ (Feb 2007)

## EUROPEAN

**CONTINENTAL TRAIL** (10560-82 AVE.) Definitely not cheap, but since that's not the point, I'll rattle-dazzle you with its charm. As the menu is largely standard (some what plain) classic preparations of Eastern European favourites, it's the type of restaurant that used to set the standard for high-class dining, which can still be a nice treat if you're willing to buy into the type of experience they're offering. ★★☆☆☆ (Dec 2006)

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# EVENTS

**CANDY CANE LANE OPEN THROUGH DEC 31, 140 ST. BETWEEN 92 AVE. & 100 AVE.** Drive or walk. Collecting donations for the Food Bank along the lane.

**THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351 118 AVE.** Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: [www.thecarrot.ca](http://www.thecarrot.ca).

**A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES DEC 28-30, 7 PM. RUTHERFORD HOUSE, 1153 SASK. DR.** Vivian Bosley narrates Dylan Thomas' classic Christmas tale with Celtic harpist Gordon Ritchie. Tickets: \$6-58, 427-0357.

**ETS CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOURS DEC 20, DEPARTURES AT 6 PM, 6:15 PM, & 6:30 PM FROM SOUTH SIDE OF CITY HALL ON CHURCHILL SQUARE.** Tour includes Bright Lights, Candy Cane Lane, and the Provincial Legislative Grounds. Fare \$3 per person.

**GUERILLA BOUTIQUE DEC 22-23, 2-10 PM. THE ARTERY, 5535 ASPER AVE.** A bi-weekly market showcasing local fashion designers, crafters, and artists. Handmade clothing, eddies, and accessories, no imports or resold items. Info: [guerillaboutique@noselab.ca](http://guerillaboutique@noselab.ca).

**HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES EVERY SAT, 1-4 PM, UNTIL DEC 22. MARKETPLACE AT CALLINGWOOD** Callingwood's holiday tradition, offering free sleigh rides for children and adults.

**TEN DAYS OF MADNESS PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL JAN 11-20. PCL STUDIO & WESTBURY THEATRE, TRANSALTA ARTS BARN, 10330-84 AVE.** The University of Alberta Bookstores and Alberta Playwrights Network present the annual festival. Events include readings, competitions, and workshops. Info: [www.bookstore.ualberta.ca](http://www.bookstore.ualberta.ca) or 492-4215.

**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS DEC 21, WESTWOOD UNITARIAN CONGREGATION, 1123-65 AVE., 434-5819**

Three earth-based spiritual services: Family Service, 7 pm, childcare available; Reflective Adult Service, 9 pm; Earth-based Ritual Service, 11 pm. A reception with hot apple cider and baked goods will follow each service. Info: [www.westwoodunitarian.ca](http://www.westwoodunitarian.ca).

# MEETINGS

**ACOA EVERY MON, INCLUDING HOLIDAYS, 7:30 PM. BSMT, BRADSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 811 BERNARD DR., ST. ALBERT, CORNER OF BISHOP ST. & SW WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE.** Use north entrance. Twelve-step support program for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families.

**ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH, 5:30-9 PM. THE FACULTY CLUB, 11435 SASK DR.** Pre-register at [www.aea.ab.ca](http://www.aea.ab.ca).

**CINÉ-CLUB D'EDMONTON 1ST MON EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. AUDITORIUM DU CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN, U OF A** No screening Jan 1. Donations accepted at the door.

**EDMONTON NATURE CLUB ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE.** Monthly meetings with guest speakers. Info: Mark, 430-7134 or [mrs@natureclub.ca](mailto:mrs@natureclub.ca).

**ENTERPRISES' FORUM TOASTMASTERS CLUB MON (TUE AFTER LONG WEEKENDS), NOON. ROYAL GLENORA CLUB, RIVER VALLEY RD.** Learn communication and leadership skills. Buffet lunch, supportive and fun-filled environment. Info: Dan Rothen, 463-0565 or [doroten@shaw.ca](mailto:doroten@shaw.ca).

**FORWARD THINKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE, 7 PM. STRATHCONA COUNTY BUILDING, 2001 SHERWOOD DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK.** Build self-confidence and communication skills. Info: 922-3835.

**FRENCH CONVERSATION THU, ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE, 8202, 8627 RUE MARIE-ANNE GABOURY, INFO: Godfrey, 469-0399.**

**FRENCH MEETUP INFORMAL conversation group.** All levels of French speakers welcome. Info: [french.meetup.com/236](http://french.meetup.com/236) or 770-5169.

**GREAT EXPEDITIONS, HOSTEL TRAVEL 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM. HOSTELLERS INTERNATIONAL, 10640-81 AVE.** Everyone welcome. For presentation schedule or info: Sylvia, 454-6276 or 455-6741.

**HIP MAMAS MEET-UP** Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: [hipmamas.meetup.com/51/](http://hipmamas.meetup.com/51/).

**IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND & 4TH THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM. ALLENDALE SCHOOL, 6415-106 ST.** Informative presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, plus monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: [www.imagesab.ca](http://www.imagesab.ca) or Sheila, 469-9776.

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES** Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Meet welcome to attend. Info: 496-5930.

**TOURISTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-NOV), 7 PM. ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 825-101 ST., NORTH ODOOR.** Meeting for TS adults and parents of TS kids. Info: 1-866-824-9764.

**UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7-8:30 PM. RM 601, NORQUEST COLLEGE, 10275-105 ST.** Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger, 454-1372, Theresa, 488-4098, or [adamsk@telus.net](mailto:adamsk@telus.net).

**WEST-END TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE, 6:45-9 PM. ASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 9010-156 ST.** Friendly environment of personal growth and mutual support. Info: 495-5424.

**WOM-WILD ON WORDS THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE** An eclectic creative writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: [feelfoodbewellin2007@gmail.com](http://feelfoodbewellin2007@gmail.com).

**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM. REMEDY CAFE, 8639-109 ST.** For discussion topics and suggested readings go to [www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=155925104](http://www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=155925104).

Info: [www.bkwsu.org](http://www.bkwsu.org) or 425-1050.

**RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS TUE & THU, 5:15-6:45 PM. RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE.** Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails, includes warm up and cool down. Info: [www.rivervalleyrunners.net](http://www.rivervalleyrunners.net) or 447-1909.

**TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU, 6:30-7:30 PM. ALLENDALE COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 6330-105A ST.** Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: [TOPS4990@hotmail.com](http://TOPS4990@hotmail.com).

**TRANQUILITY MEDITATION WED, 7 PM. 10502-70 AVE.** Tibetan tradition. Free, beginners welcome, instruction available. Info: Lama Am Kunsang, 633-6157 or [www.karmatastling.org](http://www.karmatastling.org).

**VEGETARIANS OF ALBERTA** Monthly events, potluck dinners, and dine-out nights for vegetarians and vegans. Monthly newsletter includes articles on health, environment, and compassion. Info: [events@voa.ca](http://events@voa.ca) or [www.VoA.ca](http://www.VoA.ca).

minutes. Coffee afterwards. Info on venues and other runs during the week running@teamedmonton.ca, or 436-7892.

**BALLROOM DANCING 7:30-8:30 PM** All gender combinations welcome. Salsa, tumba, waltz, live. Info: 469-3281 or [ballroomch@teamedmonton.ca](http://ballroomch@teamedmonton.ca).

**BEARS MOVIE NIGHT 9:40-11 PM EVERY MONTH, 1-6 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Movies in the TV room. Info: 488-3234.

**EDMONTON PRIME TIMERS (EPT) 2ND SUN MOST MONTHS, 7:30 PM. UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 10804-119 ST.** Older gay men and admirers meet for a social period, short business meeting, special guest speaker, discussion panel, or potluck supper. Interested groups meet for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Times World Wide. Info: [edmontontime@yahoo.ca](http://edmontontime@yahoo.ca) or [www.primetimesworldwide.org/edmonton](http://www.primetimesworldwide.org/edmonton).

**EDMONTON TRANSEXUAL PEER SUPPORT GROUP 2ND & 4TH SUN EVERY MONTH, 2 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Info: 488-3234.

**HATHA YOGA 2-3:30 PM. LION'S BREATH YOGA.** Introductory level class. Free. No previous experience required. Biting yoga mat or towel and water. Info: [yoga@teamedmonton.ca](http://yoga@teamedmonton.ca).

**LAMBDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH LAMBDA 7 PM. GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH, 11448-84 AVE.** Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual Christians. All denominations and faiths welcome. Info: 887-8681 or [lambdachurch@shaw.ca](http://lambdachurch@shaw.ca).

**MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 7 PM. PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE.** Men's social and discussion group. Info: 488-3234.

**SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH 10, 10470-19 AVE.** Welcomes all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974.

**SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE** Info: [www.spirituallivingcentre.com](http://www.spirituallivingcentre.com) or 989-3752.

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH 10 AM, 11526-76 AVE.** All orientations welcome for Sunday service. Info: 436-1555 or [www.stpaulmtd.ca](http://www.stpaulmtd.ca).

# QUEER

**AGAPE EDUCATION FACULTY, U OF A CAMPUS** Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers, community members welcome. Info: [andrea.grace@ualberta.ca](mailto:andrea.grace@ualberta.ca) or 492-0772.

**EPS/LGBTQ LIAISON COMMITTEE** The EPS/LGBTQ Liaison Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer, allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to [eps@lgbtq.ualberta.ca](mailto:eps@lgbtq.ualberta.ca). All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit, 421-3489.

**INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus-based organization** for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: [kwells@ualberta.ca](mailto:kwells@ualberta.ca) or [mwhan@ualberta.ca](mailto:mwhan@ualberta.ca).

**PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE, 488-3234.** GLBT & Supporters Community & Resource Centre. Join a group or take part in special programming. Hours: Mon-Fri, 1pm-10 pm. Info: [www.pridecentre@teamedmonton.org](http://www.pridecentre@teamedmonton.org).

**TEAM EDMONTON** A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: [www.teamedmonton.ca](http://www.teamedmonton.ca).

**WOMONSPACE** Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: [www.gaycanada.ca/womon-space](http://www.gaycanada.ca/womon-space) or 482-1794.

# MONDAY

**CURLING WITH PRIDE MON (UNTIL MAR 17), 7:15 PM. GRANITE CURLING CLUB, 8620-107 ST.** Info: [curling@teamedmonton.ca](http://curling@teamedmonton.ca).

# TUESDAY

**FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON 7:15 PM, 10086 MAGDONALD DR.** A church for all people. Info: 429-3221.

**MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB NATI POOL, 1762-106 ST.** Recreational and competitive swimming and coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue (8-9 pm) and Thu (7:30-8:30 pm), followed by social meeting. Info: [swimming@teamedmonton.ca](http://swimming@teamedmonton.ca).

**OUTREACH 3 PM. HERITAGE ROOM, ATHABASCA HALL, U OF A CAMPUS U of A** based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight-but-friendly students, staff, and faculty. Open to the community outside the U of A. Info: [outreach@planetmail.org](mailto:outreach@planetmail.org) or [outreach@ualberta.ca](http://outreach@ualberta.ca).

**PFLAG PRIDE CENTRE 1ST TUE EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Support meeting for parents, families, and friends of GLBT people. Info: Ruby, 436-1998 or [edmontontpflag@att.net](mailto:edmontontpflag@att.net).

**STEP AEROBICS 5 PM. AEROBICS STUDIO, KINSMEN SPORTS CENTRE, 9100 WALTERDALE HILL.** Info: [step@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:step@teamedmonton.ca).

**TRANS SUPPORT GROUP 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30-9:30 PM. GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH MEETING ROOM, 11448-84 AVE.** Education and support group for trans-identified and questioning people. Info: 718-1412 or [tlq@alliance@shaw.ca](mailto:tlq@alliance@shaw.ca).

# WEDNESDAY

**EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION 2ND WED EVERY MONTH** Local networking with the GLBT business community. Locations listed on [www.edmontonrba.org](http://www.edmontonrba.org).

**FREE TO BE RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM, 101 AMISKWACY ACADEMY \$50 per season.** Info: [revolleyball@teamedmonton.ca](http://revolleyball@teamedmonton.ca).

**OPEN DOOR CLUB 5 PM. GRANT MACWANE COLLEGE, CITY CENTRE CAMPUS, RM 6-217** Social group for GLBTQ students, faculty, and friends at GMCC.

**TEAM EDMONTON BADMINTON 6 PM. OLIVER SCHOOL GYM, 10227-118 ST.** Women's drop-in recreational badminton, all levels welcome. \$30 for the season, \$5 drop-in. Info: 465-3620.

**YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) 1ST AND 3RD WED EVERY MONTH** Support group for GLBT parents, partners, and friends. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434.

**YOUTH THEATRE PROJECT 7 PM. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Using theatre to increase awareness and reduce homophobic bullying. No theatre experience required. Info: Emily, 488-3234.

# BATH HOUSES

**DOWN UNDER 1224 ASPER AVE, 482-7960** Open 24/7. Info: [www.gayedmonton.ca](http://www.gayedmonton.ca).

**STEAMWORKS 1745 ASPER AVE, 451-5554** Open 24/7.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

**CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 11205-101 ST., 479-1999** A range of services for members of the Native community, including a free community lunch Fridays at noon, employment and Public Health information, counselling referrals and one-on-one support. AADAC & Legal Aid referrals. Low cost or free fees; housing and clothing referrals. Info: 479-1999.

**CLUB LULU LULULEMON, 10544-82 AVE.** Weekly activities let you move. Info: [www.lululemon.com](http://www.lululemon.com), 435-9363 or [whyte-connor@lululemon.com](mailto:whyte-connor@lululemon.com).

**CONSTELLATION 1ST & 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, 10437-37 AVE.** A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 967-9162 or [constellationcurrents.ca](http://constellationcurrents.ca).

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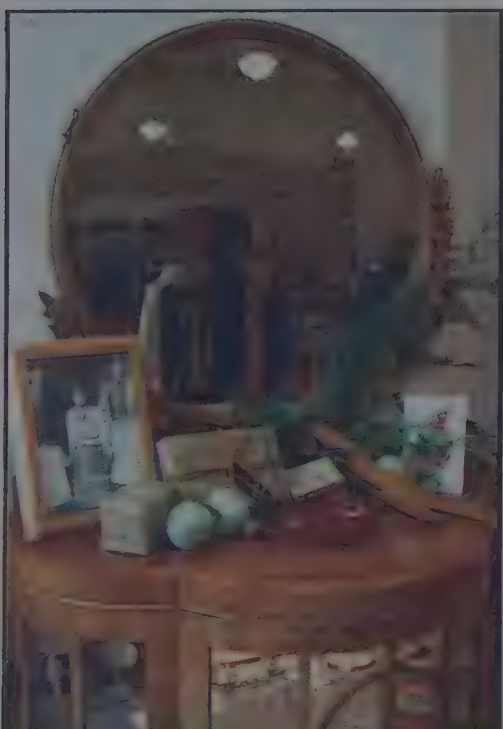
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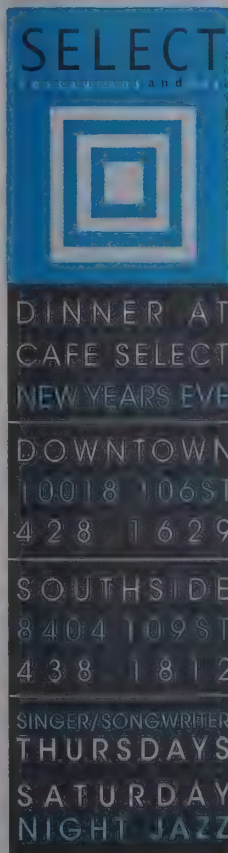


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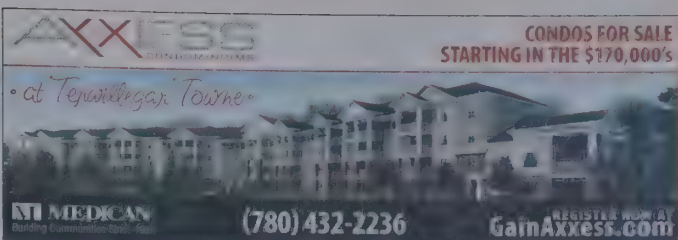
- 1 Apologize, (ft. OneRepublic) Timbaland
- 2 Crank That, Soulja Boy
- 3 Don't Stop The Music, Rihanna
- 4 No One, Alicia Keys
- 5 The Way I Are, Timbaland
- 6 Stronger, Kanye West
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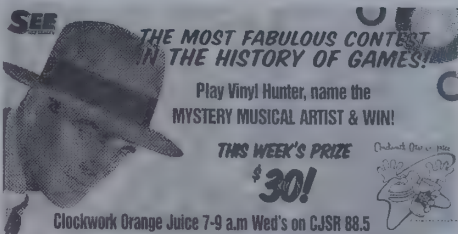
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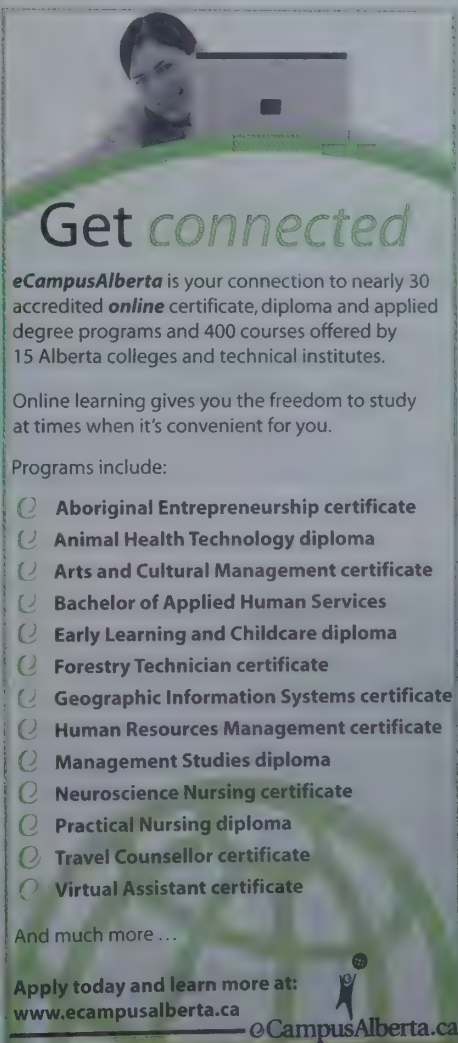
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Downtown - Tony Poirier  
Capilano - Dave Hiebert

Dec. 24 - Dec. 29  
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Downtown - Chuck Brown  
Capilano - Duane Allen



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PREVIEW • UHH, ECLECTIC • BY ZOLTAN VARADI (507 words)

# Miscegenation, Schmiscegenation

**GHISLAIN POIRIER PLUNDERS BEATS FOR ALL**

**GHISLAIN POIRIER**  
w/ Cadence Weapon  
Sun, Dec 23, The Pawn Shop (10549 Whyte Ave.)  
Info: 916-1557

Perhaps the real music story of 2007 had more to do with bloggers finding their voice than the continuing downward spiral of major labels and their increasingly anachronistic approaches to everything from distribution to artistic development.

After all, much to nobody’s surprise, the beat went on, and relatively new writers started filling a void (what with the print media facing about as many problems as the recording industry) with a serious discourse about the cultural connotations of sound. Now you could argue that this phenomenon actually began in 1995 when Pitchfork went online with their 2,000-word CD reviews, but mere windy-foggery doesn’t always equal substance.

No, things really got interesting just a few months ago, with a volley launched from the masthead of *The New Yorker* (proving there’s a bit of life in ye olde typeset rags yet...) when columnist Sasha Frere-Jones took modern indie culture to task for forsaking the black roots of North American popular music. The best counterarguments (and there were many) could be found primarily

in the blogosphere, particularly by Canadian writer Carl Wilson on his Zoilus site.

Then another set of fingers got typing—those of a fellow called Wayne Marshall, who somewhat ironically coined the term “global Ghettech” to describe DJ and soundsystem music made by North American and European artists whose sounds he says were not a “distanced form of appreciation” but were marked by the “glaring (material) contradictions between those who are celebrating and those who are celebrated.”

According to a friend of Marshall’s, Montreal-based producer/DJ Ghislain Poirier, the whole blog entry was something of a high-concept joke, but that mattered little as “global ghettech” became part of the modern musical lexicon—one article even proclaimed the ascendancy of “Ghislain Poirier and the Rise of Global Ghettech.”

Poirier giggles a little over the term, but says he has no truck with it. “Global ghettech—why not, for the moment? Maybe we’ll find a way to define us better. When grime appeared, there were many terms to define it—Eskimo, 8bar, eskibeat. The bloggers were juggling with many terms until grime established itself as the word to define that genre.”

Fitting that he introduces the sound of South London into the discussion, seeing how it’s a large part of his music—as are reggae, ragga,



He’s a Real Cut-Up | Montreal’s Ghislain Poirier is inspired by music the world over—but please, don’t call it “world music.” PHOTO BY DAN BERGERON

POIRIER cont’d pg 22

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## HOT TICKETS MUST SEE SHOWS



### Third Annual BOP Food Bank Benefit • (Little bit of everything) • Dec 21, Starlite Room

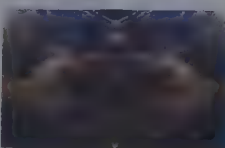
Locals Cockatoo, The Plain Dealers, The Line Atlantic/Doug Hoyer, The Well Hung Millionaires, and Eli Ritz, plus members of The Secretaries on the wheels of steel, all take part in this annual holiday fundraiser for the Edmonton Food Bank organized by Bent Oliver Presents... productions.

Cover is a \$10 minimum donation, with all proceeds going to the Food Bank, of course, and non-perishable food items are also welcome.



### Christmas Carol Project • (Yuletide) • Until Dec 22, Roxy Theatre

Another Edmonton tradition, with the likes of Bill Bourne (pictured at the left), Terry Morrison, Dale Ladouceur, Maria Dunn, and many more reprising their roles—Scrooge, Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Future, and Tiny Tim respectively—in this roots-music take on Dickens’ seasonal classic. Shows are nightly at 8 pm.



### McGowan Family Band • (Jam band) • Dec 22, Wunderbar

It’s a time for family, right? And if not yours, then how about the McGowans (who happened to have a couple of Fabulous BeeFeeders in their ranks)? At least this gathering of tribes won’t get pissed at you for showing up glassy-eyed from too many hits at the bong. In fact, this jam-happy fam probably prefers it that way.



Music Sucks? | GOMM don't care who they offend! PHOTO SUPPLIED

## COSTS OF MODERN MAN

Passenger Action, The Get Down, Thu, Dec 27, New City  
181 Jansen Ave, 4-50-429-1118

"We were like, 'Oh man, we're not coming up with anything new; we're not coming up with anything really interesting,'" Hahn says of the writing process. "I was a little bit hand faced when they

That was this past summer, and Hahn says their brief hiatus afforded them a welcome bit of creative breathing room. As things now stand, they're about halfway through completion of a new album, with six tracks ready to go into production.

"We were always working on our set rather than writing," he says, "and then once we started writing

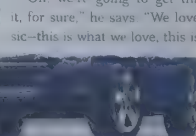
I'm kind of disgusted ☐ the way  
music is going these days," he con-

"I'M KIND OF [REDACTED] THESE  
DAYS. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF IT."

It's a life that's been a-changing. Hahn acknowledges with musical trends turning away from their guitar-based brand of music, and they've already witnessed one monumental casualty to their scene—the decision by their former Smallman Records labelmates, Edmonton's Choke, to close up shop.

Still, Hahn says that while his own bandmates have started to ask whether the next record will be their last, he believes that Ghosts of Modern Man aren't headed to the grave anytime soon.

"Oh, we're going to get through it, for sure," he says. "We love music—this is what we love, this is why."



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# Dope Eats

**PHILANTHROPIC HIP-HOP BRINGS TOGETHER SOME OF CANADA'S BEST URBAN MUSIC TALENT**

## HIP-HOP FOR HUNGER

w/ Moka Only, Intricate Minds, Fatty Jones, The Delivery Boys, and others, Fri, Dec 21, Marcus Garvey Centre (1256-125 Ave). Tickets: \$10 with non-perishable food items, \$12 without.

Hip-hop can't catch a break. Every time it thinks it's making headway in terms of public perception, someone like Don Imus comes along and sets rap back another five years. But of course, rap isn't just about the dollar dollar bill y'all and "Superman-ing that ho"—and the sixth annual Hip-Hop for Hunger is a testament to hip-hop's less-spoken-about humanitarian side.

Not just a showcase of the urban (and independent) talent from Edmonton and other Canadian cities such as Calgary and Winnipeg, the event is also an initiative which collects food donations for the Edmonton Food Bank. In the six years the event has been staged, more than 4,000 pounds of food has been raised for those in need of a little help during the holiday season. Mar-

doesn't always equal substance.

No, things really got interesting just a few months ago, with a volley launched from the masthead of *The New Yorker* (proving there's a bit of life in ye olde typeset rags yet...) when columnist Sasha Frere-Jones took modern indie culture to task for forsaking the black roots of North American popular music. The best counterarguments (and there were many) could be found primarily

in Wilson, one-third of the local rap group Politic Live, and one of the key players in organizing the event year after year, stresses the importance of an event like Hip-Hop for Hunger.

"When we had done the first show," Wilson explains, "the economy in Alberta wasn't nearly as it is right now. But now I think that now, especially with the fact that there isn't enough low-income housing and there's a lot of people who are homeless—a lot of people don't have access to food—it's become even more important for us, actually, to do an event like this during the holidays and possibly even do more throughout the year."

The show has become one of the most anticipated events in Edmonton's urban community each year, thanks to the growing pool of local talent that has performed at the show, which this year will be hosted by Sterling Scott and Nathalie Morgan and is headlined by the Juno Award-winning Moka Only, of the Vancouver trio Swollen Members.

"It's funny," Wilson laughs, "because we had reached out to a lot of cats in the city [before the first Hip-Hop For Hunger], but because the idea was fairly fresh, we got turned down by people who said they didn't

it. 'Global ghettotech—why not, for the moment? Maybe we'll find a way to define us better. When grime appeared, there were many terms to define it—Eskimo, 8bar, eskibeat. The bloggers were juggling with many terms until grime established itself as the word to define that genre.'

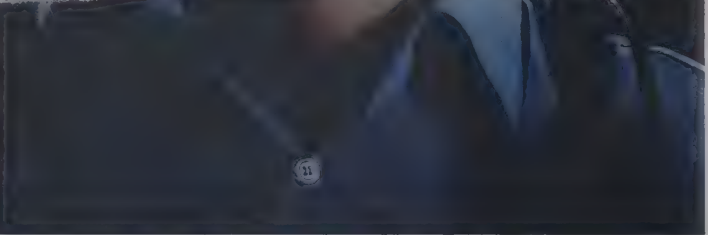
Fitting that he introduces the sound of South London into the discussion, seeing how it's a large part of his music—as are reggae, ragga,

**POIRIER cont'd pg 22**



Bum a Smoke? | Moka Only may look like he's the one in need of a hand-up, but it's just an act. PHOTO SHOOTED

want to perform at the event. And now it's an event where people come to see and say, 'H...'



He's a Real Cut-Up | Montreal's Ghislain Poirier is inspired by music the world over—but please, don't call it "world music." PHOTO BY DAN BERGERON

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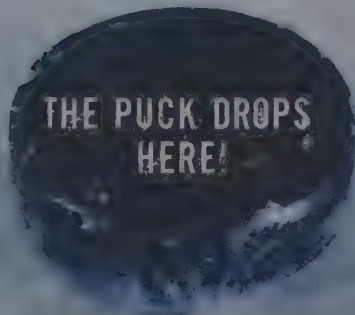
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COMMENTARY • MAL MONIKERS (585 words)

## Well, It's Better Than "Mental Afro"



Shout It Out | Asheville, NC's Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band keep in in poorly-named good company. PHOTO SUPPLIED



LOST IN THE SUPERMARKET: ZOLTAN VARADI  
**DOES EDMONTON'S SHOUT OUT  
OUT OUT OUT HAVE ONE OF  
THE YEAR'S WORST NAMES?  
THE ONION THINKS SO**

following that rag's coverage of the SXSW festival in Austin.

### Burga in Red

Hot on the heels of their ban on hip-hop, Iranian authorities have green-lighted the first series of concerts by a westerner since the Shah fell. As if the people of that nation haven't suffered enough under the cultural restrictions of the mullahs, now, after not having had a decent excuse to flick their Bics since '79, all they have to look forward to is... Chris De Burgh?

At least it's not Céline Dion, right? Hmmmm. Iranians probably shouldn't feel too relieved yet. Having just wrapped her run of 717 shows in Las Vegas, she's available, but maybe she'll be busy counting her returns for a while; according to *Variety*, the Canadian howler/critical pariah hauled in over \$400 million during her close-to-five-year run at Caesar's Palace. The headlines she's making coincide nicely with Zoltan blogger/*Globe & Mail* columnist Carl Wilson's entry into the acclaimed 33 1/3 series of books examining "important" albums, which includes volumes on such landmarks as Radiohead's *OK Computer* and Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited*. Wilson chose Dion's *Let's Talk About Love*—an odd choice, to be sure, but the just-released mini-tome, the research for which the author called "an experiment in taste," has already received praise from *New York magazine* for getting to the heart of "pop culture criticism's sacred duty... to articulate the secret genius of the underappreciated."

Like Wilson, you likely won't walk away any more of a fan after the read (assuming you aren't one already), but it sounds like a fun ride into pop-crit deconstruction (and a possible shock stocking-stuffer for your hipster kid brother, should you be so cruel).

A couple of weeks ago in this space we mentioned the notly-anticipated BUCKYS, a new award presented by CBC 3 for all sorts of cute indie categories (e.g., "Best Sweatin' to the Indies Workout") that will be divvied up according to votes by fans at the CBC's website.

Well, the votes are now in, but we can't tell you how locals Dustin Cole & the Specialist, Cadence Weapon, The Wet Secrets, and Politic Live fared, as they're airing the results a few hours after we go to press, but if you missed the broadcast last night, check in to [cbradio3.com](http://cbradio3.com) to see how the hometown heroes came out. (A podcast of the program will also be available in addition to the list of winners.)

That said: some rather unwanted honours have been bestowed upon one of the city's top acts by the webmasters of all things snarky, *The Onion*, who dishonoured Shout Out Out Out Out by including them in their list of "The Worst Band Names of '07." SO4 got their notice in the "Just Plain Bad Category" alongside Mental Afro, Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band, The Hobbits of the Shire, and The Asbestos Tampons.

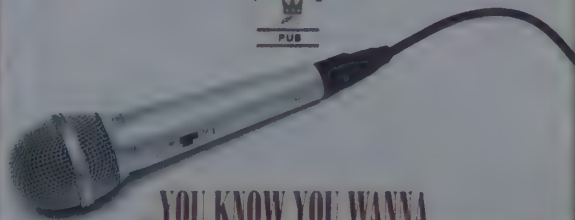
This gives at least one of the SO4s a 500 batting average in the peripheral-acknowledgment-from-the-mainstream-press sweepstakes. A couple of years ago, Lyle Bell's other, other band Whitey Houston (he's also a Wet Secret) received a pat for "Best Band Name" by *Rolling Stone*

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**EXTRAVAGANZA CRAW CRAW DEPARTING 7 PM** THE  
 ROCK HORSE Includes The Iron Horse, Ben Wald, Gaze's  
 The Fox, and Woody Budd's. Tickets: \$10  
**GERMAN CANADIAN NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION 6 PM**  
**GERMAN CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE** Dinner and  
 dance with Sound Flight. Tickets \$65 members, \$75 guests  
**JAZZY NEW YEAR DANCE AT 5:30 PM** DELTA INN SOUTH  
 Dinner and dance with the Tumbado Jamboes. Tickets \$105.  
 Tables of 10 \$849 at TIX  
**KOKANES GLACIER PARTY BAR** w/ DJ Featuring DJ  
 Shooter. Tickets \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. 421-0814

**LAST NIGHT OF SIN DARTER'S BISTROT** Tickets \$30-\$95  
 Info: 486-4444

**LATIN NEW YEAR'S 5:30 PM** DELTA INN SOUTH Dinner  
 and dance with X-Band. Tickets \$80, dance only \$30  
 at TIX

**MASQUERADE BALL PARTY 8 PM** EMPHIRE BALLROOM  
 Tickets \$25 at Empire Ballroom

**MEDITERRANEAN NIGHT 8-11 PM** COCOON Five course  
 meal, bellydancers, and DJs. Tickets \$60. 425-1707

**MURDER AT THE JUICE JOINT 6:30 PM** HILBERT'S An  
 interactive murder mystery, includes dinner and a 70's  
 Swing, rock, and blues performance by Kansas City Three.  
 Tickets \$59 at hubberts.com 436-1161

**NAUGHTY OR NICE NEW YEAR'S EVE EMERALD PLAZA**  
 Tickets \$20-\$25 Info: 435-7320

**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION 7 PM** FESTIVAL PLACE  
 Cocktails, food, live music, and entertainment with Dave  
 Babcock. Tickets \$20 Festival Place Box Office

**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2008 NEW CITY SUBURBS** Tickets  
 \$10-\$30 at New City

**NEW YEAR'S GALA 2008 EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE**  
 With Drs Hamman B. Kwake, and Mike Tomas. Tickets  
 \$42-\$106 at TIX

**NIGHTWORKS ON THE SQUARE ATISTICS START 7 PM**  
**CHURCHILL SQUARE** Downtown's annual celebration  
 includes musical fireworks, show bands, family crafts  
 and activities. All free. Info: [www.eventedmonton.com](http://www.eventedmonton.com)

**RHINESTONE COWBOY PARTY 7 PM** OIL CITY ROAD-  
 HORSE TICKETS \$15

**SPLASH AND SWIM 2008 6 PM** WEM. WORLD WATER-  
 PARK Family beach party. Tickets \$28, family pass \$70  
 464-5502 or WEM guests receive

**VALDELLIAN NEW YEAR'S EVE 8 PM** THE ROCKY  
 FOUNTAIN Theatre. Tickets \$100. 486-9550

**WINTER NIGHTS 8 PM** DOWNSIDE KO DANCE Project. Mile  
 Zero Dance, and the Red Dots. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35  
 at the door. Info: 473-2440.

**XXXMAS ATROPHY PARTY NEW CITY SUBURBS** w/ Cap-  
 tit City Burlington, DJ Dorch, Satan Claus, and Scumbly E  
**YES NICE VELVET UNDERGROUND** w/ Blind Ties, Tiges,  
 and guests.

## BLUES & ROOTS

**A CELTIC CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS** w/ McGuire  
**CARROT CHRISTMAS CAROLS** ARTIST COFFEEHOUSE Carol  
 song-bling  
**HEAVENLY BLUES BAND BLUES ON WHITE**  
**PRAIRIE CATS FRESH START CAFE**  
**RECOLLECTION BLUES BAND EDDIE SHORTS**  
**SHOUBURN WYNNERS PUB**

## JAZZ

**ANNA BEAUMONT JEFFREY'S CAFE** Christmas Show  
**JEANINE PUGED HILBERT'S**  
**MARK SEGGER FOUR ROOMS**

## POP & ROCK

**CARSON COUNTRY CASINO YELLOWHEAD**  
**THE CLASSICS CASH EDMONTON**  
**THE COY HUNT BACKGROUNDS** w/ guests  
**NASH RAMBLERS L'S PUB**

## DJS/DANCE CLUBS

**CONNECTED FRIDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE** Local  
 house & international guest DJs. Every Friday  
**CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB** Every Friday

**DI EDDY THE LASH BUDDY'S** Every Friday  
**DI LOOSE CANNON IRON HORSE** Every Friday  
**DI SHANNINUS** w/ The DOCKS Every Friday

**FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS EMPHIRE BALLROOM** Every Friday  
**FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE** DJ Groovy Guy, Ill  
 Fusion. Every Friday

**FRIDAY NIGHT FREAK OUT NEW CITY LUNGE LOUNGE** w/ DJ  
 Nehar & Anarchy. Dinner at CSR & 6-White. Every Friday  
**FUNKY FRIDAYS BACKROOM VODKA BAR** w/ DJ Phil &  
 Friends. Every Friday

**JULY DI SUEDE LOUNGE** Every Friday  
**THE MODS CLUB HALLO SHAW** Info: Britt pop, new wave,  
 reggae & classic rock. DJs: Steve Jay & Tracy D. Every Friday

**NEON NIGHTS FLUID** Every Friday  
**THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2 TWILIGHT**  
**AFTERHOURS** w/ Deft, Dubois, Mike Pugh, Miss Max, Slim  
 Pickens. Every Friday. Vinyls, Vinyo and more

**RED FRIDAYS THE DOCKS** Military appreciation night  
 Every Friday

**ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAB BAR & GRILL**  
 Every Friday

## ALTERNATIVE

**BEN SPENCER'S FUNERAL BASH DOGS**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS MENTAL NIGHT RENDEZVOUS**  
 04 INFINITY OVERDRIE

## BLUES & ROOTS

**A CELTIC CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS** w/ McGuire  
**HEAVENLY BLUES BAND BLUES ON WHITE**

## JAZZ

**DAN DAVIS HILBERT'S**  
**JOHN FINLAY BLUE CHAIR CAFE** w/ Oceana Hall  
**MARK SEGGER FOUR ROOMS**

## POP & ROCK

**CARSON COUNTRY CASINO YELLOWHEAD**  
**THE CLASSICS CASH EDMONTON**  
**NASH RAMBLERS L'S PUB**

**THE PANTY HO'S BACKGROUNDS** CD release party  
**ALWAYS LIKE NEW YEAR'S EVE THE ROOST** DJ Jazzy  
 upstairs, DJ Band dancers. Every Saturday

**ATHLETES' NIGHT RATT w/** Ill Kings. Every Saturday  
**BOY & SOUTHLANDS BACKROOM VODKA BAR** Remo  
 De Janazio, Wayne Shengilton, & weekly guests. Every  
 Saturday

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 Every Friday

**CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB** Every Saturday  
**DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR** Every Saturday  
**DI JOHNNY SHUE DARTER'S BISTROT** Every Saturday  
**DJ NICE EDDIE LOUNGE** Every Saturday  
**FESTIVUS PARTY STARLITE ROOM** w/ Mi Gato, DJ A. D.  
 Maganastan and Ill Generik  
**FOR THOSE WHO KNOW** All of House w/ Janine Brown,  
 Luke Heston, and Austin Dalton. Every Saturday  
**OH SNAP! THE TEMPLE DANCE & All Out** DJs. Every  
 Saturday  
**PANIC WITH THE 3-BOTS VELVET UNDERGROUND** Every  
 Wednesday

**RED CARPET SATURDAYS EMPHIRE BALLROOM** Every  
 Saturday

**ROCK 'N' ROLL HEAVEN 'N' HELL NEW CITY LUNGE LOUNGE**  
 w/ "Muzik" Minus & Sound of Bites. Every Saturday  
**THE ROCK WEEKENDS GLOBE TAB BAR & GRILL**  
 Every Saturday

**SATURDAYS SUCK NEW CITY SUBURBS** w/ Greg Gony &  
 Blue Jay. Every Saturday  
**SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE** Every  
 Saturday

**URBAN DANCE PARTY IRON HORSE** w/ Ill. 420. Every  
 Saturday

## SUNDAY

**POP & ROCK**  
**SQUASH FRYAH ON THE ROCKS** Every Sunday  
**STRAINERS QUARTET BLUE CHAIR CAFE**

## DJS/DANCE CLUBS

**DI RUDDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S** House, progressive, trap-hop.  
 Every Sunday  
**FLASHBACK SUNDAYS THE ROOST** w/ hostesses Miss  
 Blanca, Vanity Fair, and guests. Every Sunday

**GILSHIAN POUR THE PAWN SHOP** w/ DJ. Mamma  
 Mische, Max Ulys, and Rollee Pennington  
**HONEY ARREST SUDDEN** w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy  
 Inertia, and guests. Every Sunday

## WEDNESDAY

**DJS/DANCE CLUBS**  
**DI RUDDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S** Every Monday  
**MUNCH ON METAL MONDAYS NEW CITY LUNGE LOUNGE**  
 Every Monday

## WEDNESDAY

**ALTERNATIVE**  
**BOXING DAY SOUNDCLASH STARLITE ROOM** w/ Neigh-  
 bour, Mark Meny, Deane, Mandarin Orange, Aid Wash, The  
 Hays, and Electricbirds  
**PANIC WITH THE 3-BOTS VELVET UNDERGROUND** Every  
 Wednesday

**DJS/DANCE CLUBS**  
**ROBOBOTT 3000 NEW CITY LUNGE LOUNGE** Every  
 Wednesday

**WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLLS** w/ Tronipatch,  
 Resident Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion. Every Wednesday

## CONCERTS

**CARA LUFT AND DAVID MYLES JAN II, 8 PM** QUEEN  
 ALEXANDRA HALL Folk and roots concert. Tickets \$18 at TIX

**ELIZABETH SHEPHERD JAN 10, 7:30 PM** FESTIVAL PLACE  
 Tickets \$20-\$32 at Festival Place Box Office

**ITROMBONI JAN 10, 7:30 PM** FESTIVAL PLACE An all trom-  
 bone concert. Tickets \$20-\$32 Festival Place Box Office

**JOHN BYRNES JAN 10, 7:30 PM** FESTIVAL PLACE House of  
 Refuge. Tickets \$20-\$32 at Festival Place Box Office

**MAEWAAN SHOWCASE BAND JAN II, 7:30 PM** JOHN L.  
 HALL THEATRE Featuring jazz, rock, and pop performances  
 by MacLellan students. Tickets \$10 at TIX

**MOO'S PLACE 1015-88 AVE. FORT SAS. 992-0505**  
**MUNA LISA PUB 9606-18 AVE. 477-7572**  
**MORANGOS THEATRE CAFE 1018-79 AVE. 430-9906**  
**MURKIN'S 1017-81 AVE. 438-4000**

**MURTHALL HALL ALBERTA COLLEGE 10550 MACDONALD**  
 RD. 497-5040

**NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 10354 JASPER**  
 AVE. 473-9780

**NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6100-90 AVE. 490-9999**  
**NEW CITY 1000 JASPER AVE. 473-4200**

**NIKITA'S 1017-81 AVE. 434-0606**  
**NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 1335-1094**  
 AVE. 434-6610

**O'BYRNES IRISH PUB 1016-82 AVE. 414-6786**  
**ON THE ROCK 1710 JASPER AVE. 424-1677**

**THE OVERDOSE 6104-104 AVE. 479-9485**  
**THE PAWN SHOP 1017-81, 1053-82 AVE. 432-0814**

**PEPPERS 320 WESTMOUNT CENTRE, 113 AVE. 415-5731**  
 439-8022

**PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860-57 AVE. 434-2870**  
**QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL 10425 UNIVERSITY AVE.**  
 439-9046

**RAMADA SOUTH 5359 CALGARY TRAIL 434-3431**  
**RATT 7711 PL. 478-4141 CAPRIC 462-7253**

**RECHERCHES 10170-107 ST. 444-1822**  
**ROBERT TIGER STUDIOS CENTRE 7128 ACD BLVD.**  
 CONCORDIA CAMPUS 479-6481

**ROCK PUB 8750 ST. ALBERT RD. 438-5571**  
**ROSARIO'S PUB 11 KARAOKE CENTRE 1175-108 AVE.**  
 444-4127

**ROCK & CROWN PUB 10225-101 ST. 476-7877**  
**ROSE'S BAR & GRILL 10475-40 AVE. 479-7271**

**SNEAKY PETS 2325-113 AVE. 431-7770**  
**STARLITE ROOM 1030-107 ST. 429-1099**

**ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE 1089-71 AVE. 438-6410**  
**STEPS TEA LOUNGE COLLEGE PLAZA, 1110-82 ST.**  
 988-2386

**STRATHHEARN STEAK & PIZZA LOUNGE 9514-87 ST.**  
 455-5476

**THE STUDIO & MEAD HALL 10940-186A ST.**  
**THE THAPPOOD 9020 MCKENNEY AVE. ST. ALBERT.**  
 438-0860

**TEDDY'S PALACE 1261 JASPER AVE. 486-0984**  
**TOUCH OF CLASS GEMMINGTON CHATEAU LOUIS, 17727**  
 KINGSWAY AVE. 457-7770

**TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS 10101-105 ST. 490-1072**  
**URBAN LOUNGE 10544 WHYTE AVE. 471-7699**

**VELVET UNDERGROUND 10020-107 ST. 478-7827**  
**WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE 12411-112 AVE. 451-5650**

**WINOSON BAR AND GRILL 1172-87 AVE. 431-8000**  
**WINSPEAR CENTRE 411 CHURCHILL PARKWAY 486-9414**

**WINDWARD HILLOUT 10170-107 ST. 444-1822**  
**WIREKES 1014-50 ST. 466-1065**

**YARDBIRD SUITE 10170-86 AVE. 432-0478**

# COMING

**DEC 10 - MILE BELL ROCK w/ ROSE AGAINST PEN-  
 NANCE THE RIVERBART GAMERS Shaw Conference  
 Centre**

**DEC 70 - SOCIAL DECOR Century Casino**  
**DEC 21-22 - AL SIMMONS Winspear Centre**

**DEC 26-27 - DJ JENNY DARTER'S BISTROT**  
**DEC 27 - GARDIS OF MODERN MAN, PASSENGER ACTION**  
 New City Suburbs

**DEC 8 - PISTALISM Satellite Room**  
**JAN 7 - BLUE ROCKE LOU LOUCCY BACKGROUNDS**  
 JAN 14 - BIG & ROCK TERRI CARL, EMERSON DRIVE

**RETAIL PUB**  
**JAN 8 - GEORGE CARLIN Jubilee Auditorium**  
**JAN 10 - MICHAEL HUBBLE Retail Place**

**JAN 10 - TECTO Satellite Room**  
**JAN 19 - BACKYARDIGANS Jubilee Auditorium**  
**JAN 25 - MERCELA Shaw Conference Centre**

**JAN 27 - FRIED TAP Shaw Conference Centre**  
**JAN 28 - WILLIAM JOSEPH WINSPEAR CENTRE**  
**JAN 28 - JASON ALDEAN Ill City Roadhouse**

**JAN 30-31 - SILVERSTEIN LIL SCARLETT, PROTEST THE**  
**HERO THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA Satellite Room**  
**JAN 30 - THREE DAYS GRACE, SEETHER, REDMOUNT**  
**CRUSH Shaw Conference Centre**

**FEB 3 - L F MYSTERY DES VOIR BIL GARGES McCollough  
 United Church**

**FEB 5 - COLLECTIVE'S SOUL Education event Centre**  
**FEB 8 - HANDED McCollough United Church**  
**FEB 10 - SONATA ARTISTIA Satellite Room**

*Season's Greetings and a Merry Christmas to all of our valued customers*



*Holiday Hours*

**THE SHERLOCKS/HOLMES PUBS' DOWNTOWN**  
Rice/Howard Way 426-7784  
Open Christmas Eve until 3:00pm  
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day

**THE SHERLOCKS/HOLMES PUBS' WEM**  
Bourbon Street 444-1752  
Closed Christmas Day

**THE SHERLOCKS/HOLMES PUBS' EARILANG**  
Caplan/Idoli 463-7788  
Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

**THE ROSE & CROWN PUB**  
10235-101 Street (Main floor in the Burton Place Hotel) 426-7827  
Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day

**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**



**CELEBRATE MEXICO WITHOUT THE TRAVEL AT THE ROSE & CROWN PUB**

**LIVE MUSIC** **MEXICAN DRINKS 9-11PM**  
**PARTY FAVORS** **FORMULA AT MIDNIGHT**

## OPEN STAGE

### THURSDAY

**BACKDRAUGHT PUB** 9 pm. Everyone welcome.  
**DUSTERS PUB** Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band.  
**EDDIE SHORTS** 9 pm.  
**J.R. GRILL & BAR** 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Shameless Punks. All styles welcome. BYO instrument, drums & PA provided.  
**NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR** 8 pm. Bring your own instruments, poetry etc.  
**NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE** 7 pm. Hosted by the Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Association. Info: Ray, 457-947.  
**THE ROCK PUB** 9 pm-1 am. Truegroove jam, hosted by Truegroove.  
**SATURDAY**  
**BLUES ON WHYTE** 4-8:30 pm. Afternoon jam.  
**THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE** 7-10 pm. Music and poetry open mic.  
**MORANGO'S TEK CAFE** 7 pm. Hosted by Tommy. Info: www.morangotekcafe.com.  
**THE NEW TAPHOUSE** 3-7 pm. Molson open stage, hosted by Carmen Cook.  
**STRATHREAR PUB** 2ND SAT EVERY MONTH 5-9 pm. Hosted by The Royal Teeze, followed by karaoke.

### SUNDAY

**CROWN & ANCHOR PUB** 3 pm. Open jam & auditions to play at C&R.  
**DUSTERS PUB** Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band.  
**EDDIE SHORTS** 9 pm. Hosted by Rob Taylor, instruments and gear provided.  
**HOOLIGANZ PUB** Afternoon jam hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny.  
**HULBERT'S** 7-10 pm. Hosted by Rheia March. Info: www.hulberts.ca.  
**NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL** 3-5 pm. Hosted by Willie James & Crowdad.  
**O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB** 9 pm. Hosted by Joe Bird.  
**TEDDY'S LOUNGE & EATERY** 9-30 pm.  
**THE OVERDRIVE** 130-5 pm. "Anything Goes" afternoon acoustic jam hosted by The Shufflehound.

### MONDAY

**LB'S PUB** 9 pm-12:30 am. Hosted by Shaved Posse: Ken, Fred, Gordie & Matt.  
**PLEASANTVIEW HALL** 7 pm. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy, 474-5270.  
**THE IVORY CLUB** 8 pm. Hosted by Marty Vinko.

### TUESDAY

**THE DRUID** 9 pm. Hosted by Chris Wynters.  
**THE TAPHOUSE** 8:30 pm-1 am. Moosehead Jam, hosted by Mark Ammar, Dale Collins, and Noel Mackenzie.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**CAFE BRITT** 7-9 pm. Hosted by Puzi LoPage.  
**EDDIE SHORTS** Open jam, Ill gear provided.  
**HOOLIGANZ PUB** 7-10 pm. Hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny.  
**LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE** 8 pm. Hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 429-3624.

**THE NEW TAPHOUSE** 9 pm. Hosted by Danny Floyd.  
**PLEASANTVIEW HALL** 7:30 pm. Bluegrass jam hosted by Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. Info: 434-5997.  
**THE ROCK PUB** Acoustic night.  
**STEEPS TEA LOUNGE** Acoustic open mic every Wed. last Wed every month Spoken Word open mic. Email: jessie at j.jalbert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot that week.

## KARAOKE

**B-STREET BAR** Wed-Sun w/ Brad Scott.  
**BLIND PIG** Wed & Fri w/ Shelley.  
**BLUD'S LOUNGE** Fri & Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.  
**CASTLEDOWN'S PUB** Tue, 9 pm-1 am w/ Off-Key Entertainment.  
**CHIMMY'S** Thu, Fri, Sat 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Jimmy.  
**CHRISTOPHER'S PUB** Tue. Karaoke Contest until FEB 26. \$500 first place. Info: Lisa or Kelly, 462-6265.  
**CROWN & ANCHOR PUB** Thu, 10-30 pm.  
**CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY** Sat & Sun w/ Krsta, Liquid Entertainment.  
**DOYLE'S PUB** Fri, 10 pm-2 am w/ Cathy. Sat, 10 pm-2 am w/ Evan.  
**THE DRUID** Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.  
**DUSTER'S PUB** Sat.  
**ECCO PUB** Mon, 9 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions.  
**ELEMENT LOUNGE** Wed, 9 pm.  
**FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR** Fri, 9 pm-1 am w/ Angel How.  
**FOX PUB** Tue, 9 pm.  
**FUNKY BUDDHA** Sun, 9-30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.  
**GAS PUMP** Tue, 9:30-1:30 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.  
**H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE** Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.  
**HAWKEYES TOO** Fri, 8 pm w/ Hot Karaoke Productions.  
**HILLTOP PUB** Wed, 9-30 pm.  
**HOOLIGANZ PUB** Thu & Fri w/ Krsta, Liquid Entertainment.  
**JUGS PUB** Sat, 9 pm.  
**KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) CLUB** Tue & Sun, 6-10 pm. Except 2nd Tue of the month.  
**KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH** Sat, 10-2 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.  
**LB'S PUB** Tue, 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ The Karakennuts.  
**THE LOCKER ROOM PUB** Mon, 9 pm-1 am w/ Norm.  
**METRO BILLIARDS** Tue, 10 pm-2 am w/ Lounge Lizard Entertainment.  
**MOJO'S** Fri, 9:30 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions.  
**MONA LISA PUB** Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm-2 am. Sat, w/ Cathy.  
**NIKITA'S** Tue & Thu, 7 pm-midnight w/ Shelley.  
**ON THE ROCKS** Mon, 9:30 pm. Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke w/ Scott Parsons. Mr. Entertainment.  
**OVERDRIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB & GRILL** Sat, 9 pm w/ Jennie Joy.  
**PEPPERS** Thu, 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Gord, Stone Rock Entertainment.  
**RAMADA SOUTH** Thu, 8 pm Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Sun, 8 pm-midnight w/ Colin & Ed. Almost Famous.  
**RATT** Tues, 9 pm, Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Wed, 8 pm w/ Colin. Almost Famous.  
**ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL** Daily, 9 pm.  
**ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL** Thu, Sat, 9:30 pm-1:30 am.



### HIGHLIGHT • BOXING DAY BEATS

With neighbours like him... [O] Neighbour just woke up, and he's ready to party PHOTO SUPPLIED

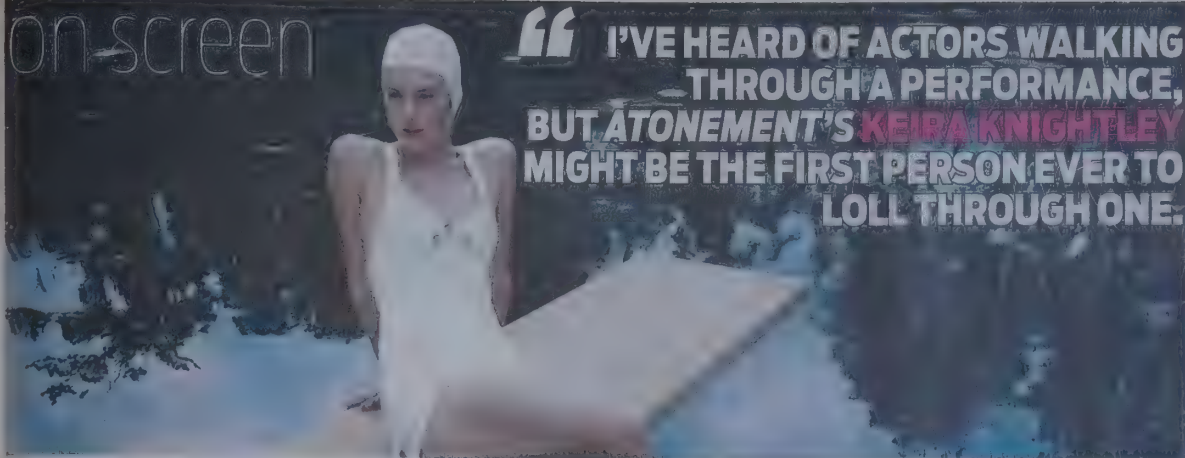
**Boxing Day Soundclash** • Wed, Dec 26 • The Temple/Velvet Underground (10030 102 St.) \$10 at the door

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on-screen

“ I’VE HEARD OF ACTORS WALKING THROUGH A PERFORMANCE, BUT ATONEMENT’S KEIRA KNIGHTLEY MIGHT BE THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO LOL THROUGH ONE.



REVIEW • OSCAR WAIT • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (1,025 words)

# The Knightley News

**ATONEMENT IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF MOVIE OSCAR VOTERS LOVE—WHICH SHOULD BE REASON ENOUGH TO AVOID IT**

## ATONEMENT

Directed by Joe Wright. Starring Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai. Opens Fri., Dec. 21. ★★☆☆

*Atonement* is this year’s *The Hours*. I don’t mean that as a compliment.

Like *The Hours*, it’s an adaptation of a literary bestseller split into three sections set in three different time periods. The director is a hot young British director coming off a surprise popular hit: *The Hours* was Stephen Daldry’s follow-up to Billy Elliot, while *Atonement* is Joe Wright’s second film, following the Keira Knightley version of *Pride and Prejudice*. It’s built around a tricky postmodern literary conceit—*The Hours* had its

references to *Mrs. Dalloway*, while *Atonement* has a rug-pulling final confession by Vanessa Redgrave that makes you re-evaluate much of what you’ve just finished watching. Both movies have incredibly annoying, literal-minded scores—the constant clacking of typewriter keys on the soundtrack of *Atonement* makes you yearn for the relentless arpeggios Philip Glass used to underline every other scene in *The Hours*. Both movies will undoubtedly be forgotten within 10 months, but they both have that perfect sheen of middle-brow “quality” filmmaking that the Oscars and the Golden Globes love to reward with bushels of nominations.

The first section of the film takes place in 1935 during a tremendously eventful day at a vast country house outside London. Sexual tension ■ mounting between beautiful young

aristocratic Cecilia Tallis (Keira Knightley) and servant’s son Robbie Turner (James McAvoy, from *The Last King of Scotland*), a creepy friend of Cecilia’s brother is prowling around the nursery, explicit love letters are being exchanged, trysts are being arranged in the library—and Cecilia’s precocious 13-year-old sister Briony (Saoirse Ronan) ■ glimpsing just enough of it all, and has enough of an overactive imagination to reach a disastrously incorrect impression of what’s actually going on. That night, she accuses Robbie of a terrible crime, essentially destroying his budding medical career, and ruining any chance he and Cecilia might have of finding happiness together.

Although I never quite believed the plot contrivance that accidentally places a shocking love note into Briony’s hands, this part of the film

does an expert job of establishing several characters and laying out a complicated series of plot points in a minimum of screen time. But it never feels rushed—indeed, the sequence takes place on a hot, heavy summer day, and Wright ably captures the languorous mood of a weekend in the countryside, when you can barely hear yourself think over the chirping of the grasshoppers. (I’ve heard of actors walking through a performance, but in *Atonement*, Keira Knightley might be the first person ever to lol through one.)

But once we leave the countryside and rejoin the story five years later during World War II, the film quickly loses its focus, and we realize that the film hasn’t actually persuaded us to care about any of these people not Cecilia, who remains a beautiful cipher, not Briony (now played by Romola Garai) who has become a

nurse, tending to severely wounded British soldiers, and not Robbie, who spends this entire middle section of the film wandering, dazed and unshaven, through various meadows and battlefields.

Meanwhile, the tightly plotted intrigue at the country house gives way to a grab bag of wartime vignettes, none of which really build on each other. There’s an insanely amusing scene, for instance, in which Robbie stumbles around the beach at Dunkirk during the 1940 evacuation—Wright shoots it in a single take that incorporates thousands of costumed extras, massive props (including a grounded ship and a Ferris wheel), and seemingly impossible-to-choreograph action, like the guy who puts two wounded horses down with his pistol as Robbie passes by. The sequence should be amazing, exhilarating, terrifying, but instead

*Atonement* cont’d pg. 28

## DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY



### EASTERN PROMISES

Naomi Watts plays a London midwife who pays an unwise visit to a sinister Russian restaurant in David Cronenberg’s atmospheric thriller. Cronenberg does some of the most intelligent, articulate director’s commentaries in the business, but this DVD’s biggest special feature may be the ability to freeze-frame Viggo Mortensen’s nude fight scene.



### INTIMATE AFFAIRS

Despite an above-average cast (Nick Nolte, Julie Delpy, Neve Campbell, Terrence Howard, Jeremy Davies, Tuesday Weld), Alan Rudolph’s 2001 ensemble comedy-drama about 1920s bohemians who gather to discuss their erotic lives never received a theatrical release. It used to be called *Investigating Sex*; will its forgettable new title gain it new life on DVD?



### COCALEO

This fly-on-the-wall documentary—a finalist for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance—follows Evo Morales during his 2006 campaign for the Bolivian presidency, paying particular attention to the impact of the American “War of Drugs” upon Bolivia’s peasant coca farmers, and how Morales effectively parlayed their resentment into a mass socialist movement.



### GALACTICA 1980: THE COMPLETE SERIES

Okay, it’s a slow week for DVDs. The Dictator apologizes. But if nothing else, watching Lorne Greene and Kent McCord trudge through their paces in these 10 cash-strapped episodes, made just before ABC pulled the plug on the show for good, will make you appreciate *Battlestar Galactica*’s current incarnation on the Sci-Fi Channel all the more.



# The Runner Stumbles

**MARC FORSTER'S HEAVY-HANDED DIRECTION KEEPS BIG-SCREEN VERSION OF *THE KITE RUNNER* FROM SOARING**

## THE KITE RUNNER

Directed by Marc Forster. Starring Khalid Abdalla, Zakeen Ebrahimi, Homayoun Ashadi. Opens Fri, Dec 27.

★★★☆☆

There's something to be said for subtlety, though nobody seems to have told Marc Forster. If moviegoers thought *Finding Neverland*, *Monster's Ball*, and *Stranger Than Fiction* tugged on the heartstrings, *The Kite Runner* nearly breaks them: Forster's adaptation of the Khaled Hosseini novel is a collage of serious emotional peaks and valleys capturing both the sweet and sordid side of

the human spirit.

The story begins with Amir (Khalid Abdalla), a young writer who begins to scour his past after an old family friend phones him, begging him to return to his former home. The audience is jolted into the pre-Soviet invasion Afghanistan where Amir spent his childhood, the son of an affluent and patriotic Pushtun aristocrat (fantastically played by Homayoun Ershadi). He spends his days with his best friend—and house-servant's son—Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada) reading stories, seeing old Steve McQueen movies, traipsing the streets of Kabul, and flying kites.

Their friendship is thrown into dire straits after Hassan is ruthlessly attacked by a group of older boys

and they are eventually separated by the invasion. That is, until Amir, now married and living in California, gets the message to come back to Afghanistan to aid his forgotten friend. The journey is precarious, thoughtful, and moving all at the same time.

But at every turn, the film is a lesson in heavy-handed delivery. I'm not suggesting that Forster's meditations on tradition, family life, political oppression, and the harrowing injustices of the fundamentalist Taliban regime aren't timely or essential; in fact, for these reasons alone, the film is worth a glance. It's just that... well... I get it—and audiences will too. Forster drives home every point with intensity and an obvious concern for his subject, and that is

one of his strengths as director. Forster is a guy who knows how to inject emotion into every scene, often with the help of talented performers (*The Kite Runner* is no exception) and a keen sensibility for saying just the right thing at just the right time (the exchange between Baba and Amir after Amir's graduation has particular charm). But at the same time, stoning deaths and cringe-inducing scenes of child rape needn't be as replete with detail as Forster makes them in order to grab the audience's attention. There have been some grumblings that Mahmidzada's parents wanted the scene in question to be removed. The whole thing comes off as slanted, sticky, and just too much.

I'm not suggesting that Forster is



**Kites Are Fun** | ...At least until the Taliban takes power. That is. PHOTO SUPPLIED

condescending to the viewer; maybe he just wants to shake the North American audience from its collective slumber and break down conventional ideas about the Muslim world. That's a fine goal, to be sure—but it glosses over a story that is ultimately about optimism—about looking forward rather than attempting to reconcile the past. If he wants us to look on the brighter side of life, Forster has to do a little more of that on his own.

## ATONEMENT from pg 27

it's a yawn: it feels like a funhouse ride with actors doing various assigned "bits," right on cue, around every corner.

What's more, there's absolutely no reason for it to be in the movie, which is ostensibly about Briony and her fruitless efforts to make up for her false accusation against Robbie. But Wright and Hampton never figure out how to take you inside Briony's head, or feel the painful, ineffective urgency of her guilt. (Or, alternatively, her inability to appreciate the full consequences of her actions.)

Admittedly, their hands are somewhat tied by the way Ian McEwan's original novel is structured so that it builds up to the surprise ending. But then they alter the meaning of that ending so fundamentally, it's outrageous—an ending that once served as a breathtaking indictment of Briony now redeems Briony and gives Cecilia and Robbie's romance a happy Hollywood ending... provided, of course, you're willing to accept the film's completely ridiculous, solipsistic logic.

*Atonement* is a good-looking, well-crafted movie—the costumes are really pretty. But it's a good-looking shell, a deeply internal story that's been turned into nothing but externals, and if the prognosticators are right and this movie wins Best Picture in a year that produced *No Country for Old Men*, *There Will Be Blood*, *Zodiac*, and *The Assassination of Jesse James*... well, the Academy will have plenty to atone for.

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REVIEW • IT SUCKS TO BE A FEMALE SEE WRITER • BY NICOLA SIMPSON KHULLAR | 483 words

# Go Away, Dead Boyfriend!

Swankonia | A bereaved Hilary Swank learns how to live again in soppy *P.S. I Love You* PHOTO SUPPLIED

**AND IF HILARY SWANK WOULD STOP MAKING MOVIES LIKE *P.S. I LOVE YOU*, THAT WOULD BE GREAT, TOO**

**P.S. I LOVE YOU**

Directed by Richard LaGravenese. Starring Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Gina Gershon, Lisa Kudrow. Opens Fri, Dec 21.

PG-13

Editor: "Hey, Nic, I've got a movie for you! It's the new romantic comedy with Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler!"

Me: "Why do I get all the chick flicks?"

Editor: "Because you're our only chick."

Me: "Well, crap."

Okay, yes, I often like romantic comedies. I've read my share of romance novels. And Gerard (that's JAIR-erd, not jur-ARD) Butler is a charmer, even with a shirt on. But my chickiness notwithstanding, I have limits. And *P.S. I Love You* is cookie-cutter without the sprinkles.

Holly loves Gerry. They live in a fifth-floor walk-up in

Despite the number of close-ups of Hilary Swank's wobbling horse-lips, her character is pretty one-dimensional. Her friends, played by Gina Gershon and Lisa Kudrow, are a little cartoonish, but at least they're more developed than the stick-figure drawing that is Holly.

The supporting characters are more interesting than Holly and Gerry, particularly Kathy Bates as mom and Harry Connick, Jr. as the socially inept bartender with a crush on the merry widow. Connick is laugh-out-loud funny in places, and in my mind is the best part of the movie. Unfortunately, the sappy Holly/Gerry flashback moments sap any energy that the supporting characters manage to inject into the movie.

Richard LaGravenese made his bones as a screenwriter. This is only his sophomore directing attempt (the first being *Freedom Writers*, also with Swank), and it is indeed soporific. This is pretty banal stuff coming from the writer of *The Fisher King* and *Unstrung Heroes*. But then, it is based on an Irish chick-lit book that *Cosmo* and *InStyle* raved over. Maybe he was just doing the best he could with the material.

The movie is different from the book, in which Holly

**DESPITE THE NUMBER OF CLOSE-UPS OF HILARY SWANK'S WOBBLING HORSE-LIPS, HER CHARACTER IS PRETTY ONE-DIMENSIONAL.**

the Lower East Side. Holly hates her job as a real estate agent and wants to get a bigger place before they try for a baby. Gerry has his own limo business with a buddy and does lots of charming Irish crooning on the side. Gerry dies from a brain tumour. Holly has trouble moving on. Then again, it's not easy when your dead husband is sending you packages and letters from the grave.

See Holly grieve. See Holly laugh. See Holly try to live again. Yawn. The only problem is that the whole thing is so superficial that Gerry's urn becomes one of the more endearing characters in the bunch.

and Gerry were apparently childhood sweethearts rather than a couple who rushed into a marriage that irritated everyone in their family. Ahern hit the bestseller list with *P.S. I Love You* when she was 21, and her immaturity shows.

In any case, it's a poor vehicle for Swank, who seems to fizzle in lighter stuff like this. This is the third stinker in a row for Swank (ah, *The Reaping*... we hardly knew ye), who'd better start picking her projects a little more carefully.

P.S.: Skip this movie

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**ATONEMENT**

FROM JOE WRIGHT, THE AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

**LOU LUMENICK, NEW YORK POST**  
"★★★★★  
**THE MOST ACHINGLY ROMANTIC MOVIE SINCE 'TITANIC'.** HUGELY ENTERTAINING.  
Stupendous performances.  
One of the year's best pictures."

**LEAH ROZIN, PEOPLE**  
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REVIEW • BIG WILLIE STYLE • BY ZOLTAN VARADI | 137 words

# Only the Lonely



Last Man Standing | Will Smith has the big screen all his own in *I Am Legend*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**IN *I AM LEGEND*, WILL SMITH BATTLES ZOMBIES IN A DESERTED NEW YORK, WITHOUT EVEN THE FRESH PRINCE TO HELP HIM**

**I AM LEGEND**

Directed by Francis Lawrence. Starring Will Smith, Alice Braga, and Charlie Tahan. Now playing.

★★★★☆

The all-American hero is having a rough go of it.

A decade ago in *Independence Day*, Will Smith, in the midst of an impending alien Armageddon, welcomed an offending beastie to good old U.S.A. with a confident smack to its noggin, faith firmly intact that Old Glory would be still flying high after all was said and done.

The post-apocalyptic Smith of *I Am Legend* isn't quite so cocky. Here he plays Robert Neville, a scientist whose cure for cancer mutates into a virus that wipes out the human

race—well, almost: there are other survivors of sorts, but unfortunately they've devolved into a cross between zombies and vampires.

Of course they're not very good company, and so Smith spends most of his time trying to find a vaccine—that is, when he's not out wandering about in the deserted streets of New York with only a dog to talk to, and coming quite unhinged in the process. (He sets up department store mannequins for company, a nicely creepy touch that also underscores a bit of a revelation: a Will Smith with no one to talk to makes for one of his more bearable screen performances of late.)

Neville is just about broken, not just by loneliness but also by the knowledge that his team messed up, big time. As he repeats his crazy-man mantra, "I can fix this," over and over again while not so subtly alluding to ground zero, the film becomes a sort of post-Iraq invasion

parable of consequences and contrition, a telling glimpse into the haggard American psyche.

For the first half of the film, anyway: as act two commences, you know it's time for the vamp-zombies to come out to play, and oh, what a disappointment. Unlike similar creatures in the *28 Days Later* franchise, which managed to generate some thrills thanks to the human actors who inhabited their undead skin, the mutants here are 100 per cent CGI, and not even particularly good digital renderings at that.

Simply put, you're never, ever fooled into thinking that these computer graphics exist on the same plane as their flesh-and-blood foe, effectively upending and negating what had been a pretty decent sci-fi setup.

This story has been committed to film twice before, Vincent Price's lugubrious 1964 *The Last Man on Earth* (an even earlier progenitor of the cinematic zombie epidemic than *Night of the Living Dead*), and Charlton Heston's far groovier 1971 take, *The Omega Man*. Like those versions, *I Am Legend* introduces a Last Woman on Earth in the final third of the film, but whereas in the previous versions this character added a tragic twist to the tale, here "Anna" (Alice Braga) simply exists as a conduit to a far more optimistic ending.

The Americans may be bloodied, but they're unbowed. A good thing for their national consciousness, sure, but not so great for an evening's chiller theatre. I'd have far bigger complaints, though, if the film hadn't already been marred by the F/X.

Perhaps as the credits roll, to the accompaniment of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song," you may feel some renewed hope for the perseverance of humankind, but your faith in Hollywood blockbusters will remain as sullied as ever.

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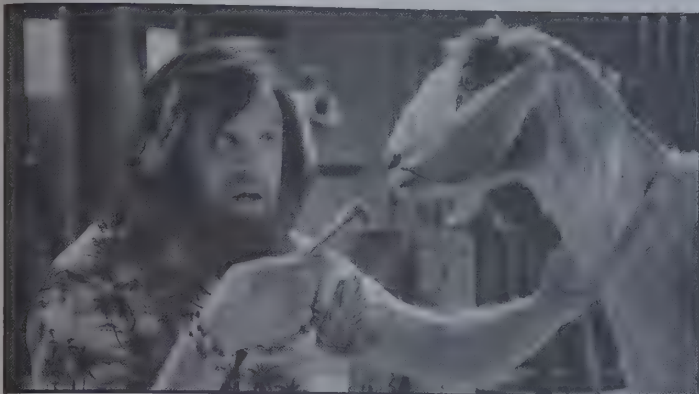
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REVIEW • MORE FUNNY, PLEASE • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY | 1502 words

# A Dud From Judd?



I'm Lying in Bed With a Goat, Just Like Brian Wilson Did | John C. Reilly looks for musical inspiration in unlikely places in *Walk Hard*. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

**WALK HARD IS A PRETTY FUNNY SENDUP OF MUSICAL BIOPICS—BUT APATOW'S NAME MAKES US EXPECT MORE!**

**WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY**

Directed by Jake Kasdan. Starring John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer, Tim Meadows, Kristen Wiig. Opens Fri., Dec. 21.

★★★★☆

Audiences and critics alike have anointed Judd Apatow (who wrote and/or directed and/or produced *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*, and *Superbad*) as the funniest force in film comedy in a generation. And they're probably right. Guy's frigg'n' hilarious! Remember McLovin? Oh dude, that was so funny...

Anyway, Apatow's sterling reputation precedes his work—which is why I was so disappointed that *Walk Hard*, written by Apatow, is only hah-funny, not tear-inducing, doubled-over-with-unceasing-mirth funny.

A parody of the *Ray/Walk the Line/Behind the Music* style of musical biopic in which a famous musician (a) overcomes a difficult childhood, (b) rises to fame based on pluck, luck, and raw talent, and (c) succumbs to drugs/women/creative block, only to (d) experience a late-career redemption, *Walk Hard* gets the genre's conventions right, but it doesn't do much to subvert or explore them. It just sort of points them out. It's parody by numbers—funny, but there aren't many surprising touches (aside from some out-of-the-blue, hilariously pointless male nudity).

John C. Reilly stars as Johnny Cash stand-in Dewey Cox, who wins a high school talent show, assembles a band, writes a classic tune (the title song), and heads to Nashville. Dewey's career arc adheres to the predictable rise-and-fall structure so beloved of biopic writers. It goes something like: wide-eyed naïf phase, swaggering star phase, rebel without a cause phase, decline, ex-

ile, redemption. (To these Apatow appends an amusing hippie Dylan phase and a bearded, pill-popping Brian Wilson phase.)

Cameos from Frankie Muniz, Jason Schwartzman, and Jacks both White and Black (among others) playing icons like Paul McCartney, Ringo Star, Buddy Holly, and Elvis as broad cartoon versions of the real-life figures are funny, and the script's knowing winks at the genre are amusing: every time Dewey reaches a new, neatly demarcated chapter in his life or career, he kicks it off by sampling a new drug, introduced to him by his drummer (Tim Meadows of *Saturday Night Live* fame, who's forever trying to convince Dewey not to partake—"You do not want this shit!") Dewey then ends every one of these chapters (divorces, musical failings, legal troubles) by tearing a different sink out of a different wall in a sobbing frenzy—culminating in the scene where he destroys an

entire public washroom's worth of them.

The music is dead-on too, especially the title track. And it that's really Reilly singing, he's not bad at all.

But as much as I chuckled, I couldn't help but feel like Apatow and director Jake Kasdan were creatively remiss in too many ways. A scene where Dewey goes meditating in India with the Beatles segues into a *Yellow Submarine*-style animated sequence, and I almost rubbed my hands in glee, but just as it's getting good, it ends. Dewey's Bob Dylan impersonation is funny, but brief. Rather than milk the jokes for all they're worth, *Walk Hard* points in their general direction, acknowledges the potential for amusement, and moves on to the next perfunctory item on its checklist.

Oh, it's funny. Just not as funny as it should be, given the talent involved. Apatow's first renter Couch

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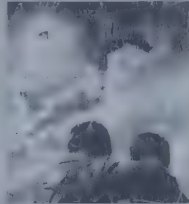
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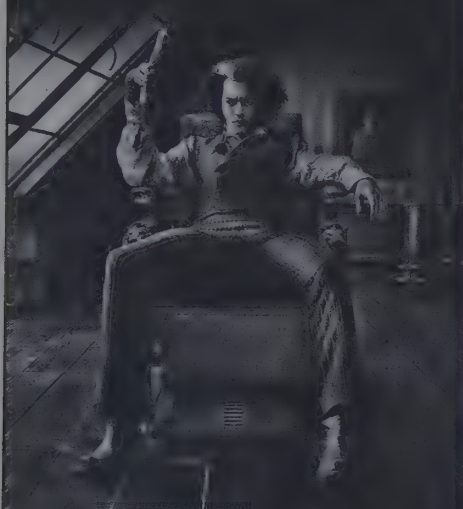
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ONLINE MOVIES • STYLISH BLOODSHED 4/5 words

# Super Mario Brothers

FREEDOM OF CHOICE G.H. LEWMER  
**GOREHOUNDS YOUNG AND OLD  
CELEBRATE THE GLORIOUS  
LEGACY OF MARIO BAVA IN  
MAESTRO OF THE MACABRE**

In issue #731 of *SEE*, an astute cultural maven (not this author) wholeheartedly recommended Tim Lucas' biography of the Italian genre film director Mario Bava (*All the Colors of the Dark*) and Anchor Bay's DVD box sets of his films as the perfect gifts for the upcoming Yule season. [It was me! It was me! -Ed.] With Tim Burton's deliciously bloody

ematographer for such well-known directors as Roberto Rossellini, Marcel L'Herbier, and G.W. Pabst. In 1956, Bava, uncredited, took over direction of the first modern Italian horror film, *I Vampiri*, and the rest, as they say, is cinematic history. Bava worked in numerous genres (horror, science fiction, western, peplum, giallo, spy, comedy, thriller) from 1960 to 1977 until succumbing to a heart attack on April 27, 1980, just days before Alfred Hitchcock's untimely passing.

Mario Bava: *Maestro of the Macabre* is a British documentary from

action—he was fond of proclaiming, “Images are the story!” His films are renowned for their morbid sexuality, their pathological violence, and Bava's unsurpassed knack for presenting normal situations and subverting them into the most disturbing thing imaginable.

*Maestro of the Macabre* vividly demonstrates Bava's enormous influence on subsequent filmmakers, and how many of his films have been “borrowed from” with little or no credit. Ridley Scott's *Alien*? Bava did it first with 1965's *Planet of the Vampires*. *The Friday the 13th* series? Bava invented the slasher genre with 1971's *Twist of the Death Nerve*. Dario Argento's *Deep Red*? Bava pioneered the giallo genre with *Blood and Black Lace* in 1964. Even *The Beastie Boys* got in on the act—their video for “Body Movin’” was a barely disguised homage Bava's out-of-this-world psychedelic spy thriller *Danger: Diabolik*.

So as you sit down this holiday season to admire the geysers of blood Johnny Depp unleashes in *Sweeney Todd*, keep in mind that, chances are, what you're seeing was already accomplished (and far more successfully) by an unknown Italian filmmaker who has yet to receive his proper due as the Maestro of Horror.

**WATCH MARIO BAVA: MAESTRO OF THE MACABRE ONLINE AT  
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM**

*Sweeney Todd* sure to garner critical praise, it seems as good a time as any to reacquaint Edmontonians with the man revered by horror fans around the world as the Maestro of Mayhem: Mario Bava.

Bava was born in 1914, son to famous Italian cameraman and special effects designer Eugenio Bava. The younger Bava diligently worked his way up through the Italian film industry as a camera operator/cin-

2000 that provides a thorough overview of the maestro's career, peppered with clips and interviews from rabid fans such as Tim Burton, Joe Dante, John Carpenter, Sean Cunningham, and Carlo Rambaldi, all of whom testify to Bava's influence in evolving the horror genre from the literal to the subconscious.

A master of mattes and glass paintings (a skill he learned from his father), Bava emphasized mood over

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**SEE**



REVIEW • DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (612 words)

# Twisted Sister

**NICOLE KIDMAN DESTROYS THE HAPPINESS OF EVERYONE AROUND HER IN SQUIRMILY HILARIOUS MARGOT AT THE WEDDING**

## MARGOT AT THE WEDDING

Directed by Noah Baumbach. Starring Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jack Black. Now playing.

★★★★☆

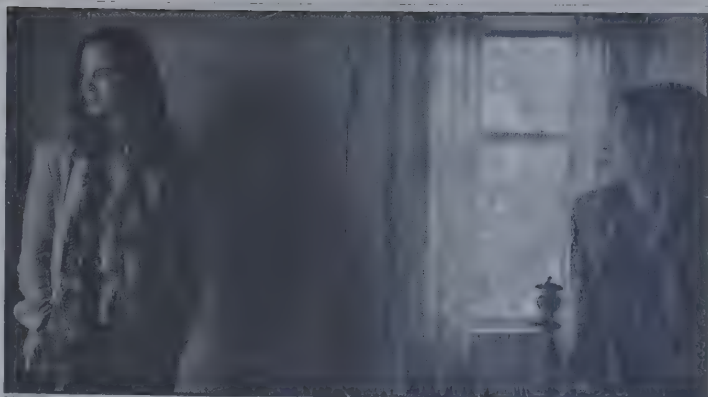
Last week I had to go to the hospital to have a cyst removed from my chin. The procedure began with the doctor producing a needle that appeared to be the length of his forearm and injecting me about half a dozen times. Once I was sufficiently numb, he laid me down on a table, painted my chin with mercurochrome, draped a sheet over my eyes (presumably so that I wouldn't get freaked out by the sight of the increasingly bloody scalpel in his hand), sliced my chin open and began painstakingly extracting all the goop that was causing my chin to bulge out like the son's on *American Dad*. Apparently a lot of the tissue was attached to the bone, which meant that for about 15 minutes, the only sound I heard was his knife scratching against my chin—it was the sound of someone slowly removing ice from a windshield, or scraping two or three coats of paint

from an antique chair.

I mention all this because just last night I went to see *Margot at the Wedding*, and I think that, given the choice between undergoing that procedure again and spending a week-end cooped up in a house with these characters, I think I'd let Dr. Mohling have another go at my chin.

However, in the hands of writer/director Noah Baumbach, sitting at a safe remove from the action in the movie theatre and watching these miserable people making each other even more miserable is a surprisingly enjoyable experience. That's assuming, of course, that you have a taste for the new breed of comedy where, instead of snappy one-liners, you get excruciatingly protracted scenes of social awkwardness. *Margot at the Wedding* makes Baumbach's previous film, the painfully autobiographical divorce drama *The Squid and the Whale*, seem like a Neil Simon play by comparison. The things these people say to each other would make Todd Solondz flinch.

Nicole Kidman plays Margot, a successful literary author with a bad habit of taking family secrets and using them as fodder for her fiction. She's arrived at her family's New England summer home to attend the marriage of her estranged



*Bride and Prejudice* | Sisters Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Jason Leigh did more hilarious squabbles in *Margot at the Wedding*. (HBO)

sister Pauline (Jennifer Jason Leigh) to Malcolm (Jack Black), an unemployed musician who's trying to pass off writing letters to the local alt-weekly as one of his "jobs." "I can't say I hold out a lot of hope for the whole thing," Margot tells her son Claude (Zane Pais) during the trip down, and when he asks why they're going, she replies, "We're supporting her!"

With support like Margot's, who needs enemies? Faultlines were already developing in Pauline and Malcolm's relationship before she even got there, but Margot's quietly disapproving presence, her habit of poking at old wounds and asking inappropriate questions, has a way of

turning them into gaping fissures. Baumbach's decision to cast Kidman as this horrible woman is a masterstroke—there's always been something icy and ruthless behind Kidman's eyes, and she smartly plays Margot as if she truly believes she's the victim. ("Stop picking on me!" is one of her favourite exclamations.)

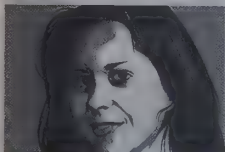
Baumbach devotes perhaps a little too much screentime to the predictable unraveling of Pauline and Malcolm's relationship (although Black's blubbery phone call to Pauline begging her to take him back is one of the film's comic highlights) and not enough to the more interesting, weirdly Oedipal relationship between Margot and Claude. You can

see why he's so enthralled with Margot—when you're a kid, it's a thrill to hear an adult talking candidly about other adults' flaws—but you can also see what a smothered, psychological mess she's turning him into.

*The Squid and the Whale* ends with its teenage hero breaking away from the toxic embrace of his literary father and running through Central Park. *Margot at the Wedding* reverses that ending just when it looks like Claude is about to escape Margot's clutches, if only temporarily: she races furiously after him, as if to signal to him he'll never, ever get away. Poor kid.

TELEVISION • NO MORE PILOTS? (605 words)

## Pilot Season Gets Shipwrecked



TELEPROMPTER NICOLA SIMPSON KULLAR  
**THE WRITERS' STRIKE IS HASTENING THE NETWORKS TO ABANDON THE WASTEFUL PILOT PROCESS**

There's no end in sight to the WGA strike, despite this being the season of peace on earth and goodwill to all. Last week, *Variety* reported that Santa's elves in Hollywood are working overtime to figure out what do to about the upcoming pilot season.

Right now, the way the system works is producers and writers, most of whom already have a development deal with a "first look" clause, pitch ideas to the networks. Between November and January these ideas get yeasted or nayed and cast. Then come Easter time, they produce a basket full of "pilot" episodes. For those series that get picked up, the pilot becomes the first episode, the one that explains everything and sets up the

show. Once it's all said and done, the networks show off their spiffy prototypes to advertisers in May, who then decide if they're interested in buying space on the series. So you go from maybe 300 pitches to 40 commissioned scripts to half a dozen pilots produced for each network in a season. These then become the new shows of next season. Make sense?

But times are a-changing. When you're punching out studio-based sitcoms, this process doesn't seem so bad. When you're spending upwards of \$3 million on a pilot, however, the risks skyrocket along with the budget. That's a lot of shekels to spend on what might essentially turn into YouTube detritus.

NBC is deciding to cut their losses ahead of time and just start green-lighting stuff. Recently the network's new head peacock asked his little birds to compile a list of their favourite stories; the results included everything from *Sleeping Beauty* to David vs. Goliath (the Biblical one, not the *Knight Rider* one). They eventually settled on a 13-episode retelling of *Robinson Crusoe*. Gushes the network: "It's part *MacGyver*, part contemporary morality tale about race and personal discovery,

part comedy, and part *Cast Away* meets *Survivor*." Well, when you put it like that, the cannibals are just really making an alternative lifestyle choice, aren't they?

Some producers with a good track record don't even bother with pilots anymore. For example, CBS okayed Jerry Bruckheimer's adaptation of British sci-fi thriller *Eleventh Hour* pretty much before he finished telling them the premise. And J.J.



Abrams (*Lost*) got ABC to cough up \$10 million for the pilot of his new mythology show *Fringe*. That's pretty much tantamount to promising a series deal.

The new way to go, *Variety* reports, is international co-productions (like *Crusoe*, which will be the

first American series to be produced by a British company in 45 years). This approach spreads the cost, and the risk, around.

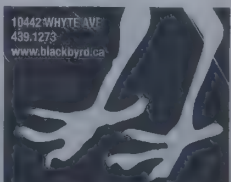
And instead of the dog and pony show for the soap companies, the networks will start rolling out new shows year-round, based on viewer demand. That means more shows, but maybe fewer episodes that get rerun more often. It's profit margin that's key. Whether the networks want to admit it or not, in an age when so much revenue can be derived from DVD sales and product placement, ratings are going to matter a lot less in the long run.

In other words, the networks are slowly adopting the cable model of programming. It's about freaking time.

Last week the Golden Globe nominations came out. In both the drama and comedy categories, three of the five nominees are on pay cable networks such as HBO or Showtime. What is this telling us?

Maybe the Hollywood elves on their Blackberries are on to something with the idea of revamping the pilot process. Or maybe they're all just busy checking the help wanted section of HBO.

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Come to Second Cup on Jasper Ave (10309 Jasper Ave) between 2 and 2:15 pm on Friday. Find the SEE Magazine rep and give them the answer or appropriate response to the question or task below. You may not win if you have won a prize from SEE Magazine in the last 30 days. SEE Magazine reserves the right to restrict prizes. Prizes must be claimed in person by the contest entrant. Photo ID may be required.

**Prize:** A double-guest pass to see *The Kite Runner* at the Princess Theatre.  
**Skill-testing Question:** In filming *The Kite Runner* what replaced many of the kites which were later added in post-production?

PRINCESS

SECOND CUP

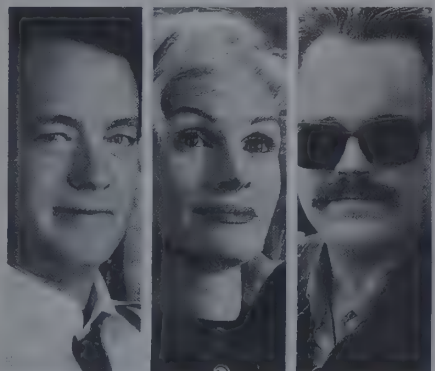
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## 5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE

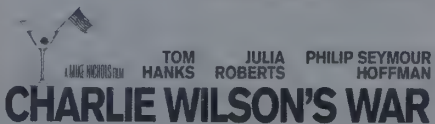
BEST ACTOR: TOM HANKS  
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Scott Menz, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD



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## MOVIES • OPENING THIS FRIDAY

### ATONEMENT

Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, and Romola Garai star in *Pride and Prejudice* director Joe Wright's adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel about a precocious upper-class 13-year-old girl in 1935 England whose misunderstanding of the relationship between her older sister and the son of one of the house servants has tragic consequences, which she spends the rest of her life trying to make up for.

### CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Amy Adams star in *The Graduate* director Mike Nichols' political comedy, based on the true story of a fun-loving Texas Congressman who in the late 1970s uses his network of social contacts to secretly funnel millions of dollars to the Afghani mujahedin to aid them in their fight against the Soviets. Screenplay by Aaron Sorkin.

### THE KITE RUNNER

Khalid Abdalla, Homayon Ershadi, and Zekeria Ebrahimi star in *Monster's Ball* director Marc Forster's adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's bestselling novel about a well-to-do Afghani author who fled to America in the 1970s following the downfall of the monarchy, and who must confront his betrayal of his childhood best friend when he returns to his home country, now under the control of the Taliban, as an adult.

### NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Jon Voight, and Helen Mirren star in director Jon Turteltaub's sequel to his 2004 *Da Vinci Code*-style adventure, in which the discovery of missing pages from John Wilkes Booth's diary puts superpatriotic treasure-hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates on the trail of a massive historical conspiracy.

### P.S. I LOVE YOU

Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Lisa Kudrow, and Gina Gershon star in *Freedom Writers* director Richard LaGravenese's chick flick about a young widow whose late boyfriend has arranged for her to receive 10 messages

designed to help her overcome her grief and embark on a new life.

### SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, and Sacha Baron Cohen star in *Edward Scissorhands* director Tim Burton's film version of Stephen Sondheim's grisly musical about a murderous, vengeful barber in Victorian London who forms a dark partnership with the proprietress of a meat pie shop.

### WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY

John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer, and Tim Meadows star in *Zero Effect* director Jake Kasdan's cameo-filled parody of musical biopics, about a rock star who survives childhood trauma, three marriages, and multiple drug addictions on the road to becoming a national icon. Co-written by Judd Apatow.

## MOVIES • ALSO PLAYING

### ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

Oh, sweet tasty Mose, is this thing annoying. We're just praying that a Jingle Cats movie isn't in the works.

★☆☆☆

### AUGUST RUSH

Not the latest deodorant scent from Right Guard, but a syrupy, coincidence-laden melodrama about a young musical prodigy determined to track down his long-lost parents through the sheer power of music. Warm-hearted but soft-headed. Warning: contains Robin Williams.

★★★☆☆

### AWAKE

Essentially an Afterschool Special with a macabre twist, *Awake* falls on every critical count: acting, screenwriting, plot, pacing. And yet the damn thing somehow musters some hackneyed B-movie charm despite itself.

★★★☆☆

### BEOWULF

The future of filmmaking? Hardly—unless every movie in the future is going to be an



Sweeney Scissorhands (Depp Hack Sparrow? We've got a million!!!) art. PHOTO SUPPLIED

airless, clunky adventure performed by digitized figures who look like videogame characters stuck in pause mode.

★★★★★

### ENCHANTED

It's not as clever as it could have been, and its occasional nods toward feminism are a joke, but Amy Adams' pitch-perfect performance as an animated princess stranded in real-life New York City transforms this material into one of the more satisfying comedies of the season.

★★★★★

### FRED CLAUDE

Wow—Vince Vaughn turned into Tim Allen so gradually we barely even noticed it.

★★★★★

### THE GOLDEN COMPASS

That \$180 million budget bought a beautiful-looking movie, but this adaptation of the first volume of Philip Pullman's beloved *His Dark Materials* trilogy softens and second-guesses everything that made the source material so memorable. Maybe, like the Harry Potter franchise, the sequels will be better?

★★★★★

### HITMAN

Shitman.

★★★★★

### INTO THE WILD

It ends with its hero starving to death in the Alaskan wilderness, but this adaptation of the still the most upbeat film Sean Penn has ever made. Credit goes to Emile Hirsch's winning performance as nature-loving thrill-seeker Chris McCandless, and to Penn's ecstatic yet skeptical embrace of his idealistic worldview.

★★★★★

### NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

A near-perfect Briefly merging of the Coen Brothers' mordant, blackly comic sensibility and Cormac McCarthy's apocalyptic, near-Biblical evocation of evil on the loose on the Texas plains. Javier Bardem's performance as a malevolent bounty hunter will haunt your dreams.

★★★★★

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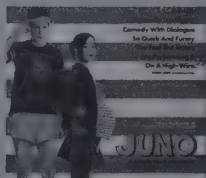
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Into The Wild

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Juno

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Wednesday - Sunday  
Matinees @ 2:00 pm  
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mature themes  
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BEYOND THE BLURBS • BLOGGERS HAVE THEIR SAY



How Wonderful Is It? (Frank Capra's Christmas perennial might be more tongue-in-cheek than it usually gets credit for. PHOTO SUPPLIED)

THIS WEEK: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE BLOG-A-THON

Don Eisenberg, Cinemathearts | "The world without George Bailey is inherently inferior world. And yet there is one thing that Clarence doesn't want George to know about the world without him. It's about his wife, Mary. You see, without him, she's—GASP—an old maid. That is one of the keys to my disappointment with *It's a Wonderful Life*. The world without George Bailey is exaggerated to such a crude extent that it loses all meaning. It also refuses to show anything truly

horrible. We never see Potter reveling in his wealth. We only see Uncle Billy in the mad-house. We only see Mary without a husband. There is nothing more horrible here than a wifeless woman. This is an example of Frank Capra's candy-coated worldview, and in this case it fails."

M.A. Peel, M.A. Peel | "It's a *Wonderful Life* draws situations with just a few strokes that have deep resonance for the experience of the solid middle class after World War II, like the family dinner scene before the high school graduation dance, the father's fatigue at working at a job he doesn't

like, and George's ideas of getting out: 'I'm shakin' the dust of this crummy little town out of my feet and I'm gonna see the world!' But most importantly, it captures the anger that lies just beneath the surface of so much of 'nice' domestic life in the phone call scene with Mary, Jimmy Stewart grays Mary by the shoulders and shakes her: 'Now you listen to me. I don't want any plastics and I don't want any ground floors. And I don't want to get married ever to anyone!' This is not a sentimental vignette. It is a clear-eyed look at one of the age-old realities of civilization: men don't particularly want to participate."

Weepingman, The Listening Ear | "It's that constant pressure that links Capra to Ozu—they both pose individuals against communities (families, social obligations), and both refuse to resolve the conflict. For all the pissing and moaning people do about the way *It's a Wonderful Life* ends, it's a pretty believable ending. If a popular and well-respected man is in trouble, his friends probably will take up a collection for him. What's arbitrary about it is not the happiness of the ending, it's the idea that it's an ending at all. George won't go jail, but he's still not rich, he's still going to have to go to work on Boxing Day with the same problems he had before."

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PG  
FRODO  
Nightly 7:00, Wed. Matinees 2:00  
Gross: Empire, action, themes

**PRINCESS**  
10337 42ND AVENUE • 433-0778  
**THE KITE RUNNER**  
Nightly 6:50, 9:15, Sat & Sun matinees 2:00  
Dutchman content  
**MARGOT AT THE WEDDING**  
Fri-Sat 7:00, Wed. Thurs 7:30, Sat & Sun matinees 2:30  
Gross: language  
**INTO THE WILD**  
Nightly 6:45

**PARKLAND CINEMA 7**  
209th Street, Spence Court • 942-2232  
CLOSED DEC. 24 & 25

**THE GOLDEN COMPASS**  
Nightly 7:05, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 12:45, 3:05  
PG  
PG  
Nightly 7:25, 9:50, Wed. Thurs 7:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:45, 3:15  
Gross: language  
**CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR**  
Nightly 7:15, 9:40, daily matinees 1:15, 3:45  
Gross: language  
**NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS**  
Nightly 7:15, 9:40, daily matinees 1:15, 3:45  
Gross: language  
**WALK HARB: THE DEWXY COST STORY**  
Nightly 7:30, 9:40, daily matinees 1:30, 3:40  
Gross: language  
**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, daily matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language  
**I AM LEGEND**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, daily matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language

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COUNTRY HALL, ST. WILSON CHURCH, AVE. ST. ALBERT • 458-8922  
**WALK HARB: THE DEWXY COST STORY**  
Fri-Sat 7:00, Wed. Thurs 7:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:15, 3:45, 5:15, 7:45, 9:15, 11:45  
Gross: language  
**THE GOLDEN COMPASS**  
Fri-Sat 7:00, Wed. Thurs 7:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:15, 3:45, 5:15, 7:45, 9:15, 11:45  
Gross: language  
**ENCHANTED**  
Fri-Sat 7:00, Wed. Thurs 7:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:15, 3:45, 5:15, 7:45, 9:15, 11:45  
Gross: language  
**THE WATERHOUSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, daily matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, daily matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**I AM LEGEND**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, daily matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, daily matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language

**LEDUC CINEMAS**  
4702-50 ST. LOUIS • 942-7778  
**ENCHANTED**  
Nightly 7:05, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language  
**BE MOVIE**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language  
**MARTIAN CHILD**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language  
**THE GOLDEN COMPASS**  
Nightly 7:05, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language  
**WALK HARB: THE DEWXY COST STORY**  
Nightly 7:05, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30  
Gross: language

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**I AM LEGEND**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**AUGUST RUSH**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**27 DRESSES**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language

**NEW WEST MALL 6**  
WEST EDMONTON, PALLAS IN APPOINTMENT • 444-1079  
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**WELCOME (HINDI W.E.S.S.)**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**TAARU ZAMERAN PAR (HINDI W.E.S.S.)**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**CHRISTMAS IN WUNDERLAND**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
**THIS CHRISTMAS**  
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun matinees 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:45  
Gross: language  
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**AMERICAN GANGSTER**  
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Nightly

—JAMES HAMILTON

THEATRE • FANTASY ROLEPLAY • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (1,246 words)

# Dream a Little Dream



Clinton is a Kitten | Clinton Kotten dreams of joining the cast of *Cats*. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

## CORALIE CAIRNS AS HEDDA GABLER, JOHN WRIGHT AS LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE: EDMONTON ACTORS NAME THEIR “DREAM ROLES”

I am not making this up: for more than two decades, Sylvester Stallone's dream was to write, direct, and star in a movie about the life of Edgar Allan Poe. Apparently, that long-delayed project is finally getting off the ground, with Robert Downey Jr. and Viggo Mortensen both apparently in talks to tackle the role of the gloomy, hard-drinking author.

In this case, it's probably a good thing that Stallone never got to play his dream role—somehow I doubt Edgar Allan Poe spent a lot of time on the Nautilus machine. But what about Edmonton actors? Surely, we at *SEE* wondered, there must be roles they've always coveted, but

which they've never been given the chance to play.

And so we asked a cross-section of local performers to name those parts they long for—the scripts they place under their pillow when they sleep, the roles they're thinking of when they pray to the theatre gods. Or at least the parts with lots of juicy speeches.

Here's a selection of the responses we received. Artistic directors, are you taking notes?

### JAN ALEXANDRA SMITH

(Recent roles: Maggie the Cat in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Elena in *Vanya*)

"It's funny—right now, I'm playing a teapot in *Beauty and the Beast*, and a bunch of the girls were talking backstage about this very thing. And I said that more than anything, I want to play Rosalind in *As You Like*

*It*. I've played her before with the Free Will Players, but I would love to do it one more time before I'm just too old to get away with it. I love the way she teaches a guy how to really get the girl—if only we all had the opportunity to do that! And she has so many qualities that I admire as well. She's vulnerable—she's frightened when she's thrust out into the world on her own—but she still pulls herself up by her own bootstraps and finds her way."

### JAMES HAMILTON

(Recent roles: Spig in *Diamond Dog*, King Ethelred in *Silence*, Matthew D. Melody in *Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco*)

"Typically I find myself cast as the whimpering simp, which I love. I think that one of greatest scheming, panicky cowards ever created is Shelley 'The Machine' Levene from *Glengarry Glen Ross*. It's always been a dream to play him someday. In saying that, I should say that I've always had a soft spot for the badass-esses too, I would literally kill to play Harry Roat from *Wait Until Dark*. I mean it. I would kill."

### CLARICE ECKFORD

(Recent roles: Vicki in *The Velvet Shock*, Susan in *Kingfisher Days*)

"My 'dream role' has always been Ophelia in *Hamlet*. When she comes in, singing mad little songs, handing out flowers and herbs, the goal is to prevent the audience and fellow actors from thinking, 'Oh yeah, this is the part where Ophelia goes nuts and drowns herself.' Instead, the room should be disturbed and saddened; there should be a realization that the trickery constructed by Hamlet *et al.* has caused the mental breakdown of a somewhat innocent bystander. And to share the stage with a wild and handsome Hamlet would be exciting."

### CLINTON CAREW

(Recent roles: Mr. Lawrence, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, Old Uncle in *The Black Rider*)

"I've always wanted to be one of the cats in a touring production of *Cats* somewhere in the Midwest. Not any of the named roles, just one of the ones whose main job is to slink through the audience as the show opens wearing glow-in-the-dark contact lenses. In my dreams, this is a bit like *Showgirls* and a bit like *All That Jazz*, and probably not

much like *Cats*. But anyhow, all of the other cats are secretly envious of my purr but I can find contentment anyhow as I settle down into a human-sized cat bed in the touring van. When, on opening night, Mungojerrie is arrested for soliciting a police officer by rubbing his butt up against him in the coatroom, I spring into action, but instantly forget all the words to all the songs. It is around this time that I realize that cats don't wear pants."

### CORALIE CAIRNS

(Recent roles: Alice in *Sexy Laundry*, Peggy in *While My Mother Lay Dreaming*)

"Off the top of my head, I would have loved to have played Hedda Gabler. I'd also love to play Mary in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, or



Hard Knock Life | John Wright as Little Orphan Annie (Shudder). PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Linda, the wife in *Death of a Salesman*, and at some point, Hagar in *The Stone Angel*. I would like to do Martha again in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* These women are all complex, conflicted, flawed, and they fight fiercely for what they need. To research these roles—to mine for all that information and to live in the worlds they struggle to survive in, to have their words and thought processes and make them mine would be bliss. Martha and George's dialogue in *Virginia Woolf* is just breathtaking—when she finds her target, she leaves no prisoners. As Nick tells her, 'There's no limit to you.'"

### TRACEY POWER

(Recent roles: Mary Pickford in *Living Shadows: A Story of Mary Pickford*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

"I've been playing a lot of 'adorable yet feisty' lately, so I'm ready for a little villainess activity. What play and part that is I'm not sure maybe it's about to be written. I would also love to dive into a Naomi Wallace play—*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Pope Lick Creek both have wonderfully real young woman parts that have more than enough quirkiness to drool over. So maybe if I'm a good girl, Santa or some director in a red suit will send one of those roles my way."

### NATHAN CUCKOW

(Recent roles: Feminem in *Bash'd*, various characters in *Monster*)

"I'm not really sure what my 'dream role' would be. When I was a teenager I always wanted to play Tom in *The Glass Menagerie* and I did that, and performing Daniel MacIvor's one-man show *Monster* was certainly a dream. Now I don't really know. Does this mean I should retire?"

"I will say that creating my own work has probably been most rewarding. It allows me the freedom to explore whatever type of role I feel inspired by at the time—low status, high status, whatever. I would love to collaborate with Daniel MacIvor on a new work, or to be cast in a new Stewart Lemoine play. He always creates such interesting characters. (I played one half of a pair of Siamese twins in *Two Tall, Too Thin*, as well as Khan Xiu, Princess of the Eastern Isles, in *The Hothouse Prince*.)

"I'm not really sure outside of that. Am I supposed to say Hamlet? Well, sure. That would be fun. But I don't really dream about it."

### JOHN WRIGHT

(Recent roles: Leontes in *The Winter's Tale*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*)

"I would like to play Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* because I'm the right age and it's one of the greatest roles in the theatre. Also John Lear, because I love doing Shakespeare. These don't fall that far from my usual curmudgeon roles but they have scope well beyond just being cranky old farts. I'd love to do any whimsical, comedic roles à la Stewart Lemoine. And I do believe I would make a great Annie with a real twist—directed by Jeff Page, of course. Sandy would never be the same. Arf!"



# EXHIBITS

**ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL** 455 KING ST., SPRUCE GROVE, 10064 Unit DEC 22. Annual Christmas gift and art sale. [www.alliedarts.org/council](http://www.alliedarts.org/council).

**ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL** 10086-106 ST., 488-661 EXT. 100. [www.albertacraft.ca/alba.ca](http://www.albertacraft.ca/alba.ca).

**THE ARTERY** 9575 ASPEN AVE. Unit JAN 4, "Towards Everything," photographic images by Ted Kerr. Hours: Tue-Fri 5-7 pm, or by appointment. Info: [theartery@telus.net](mailto:theartery@telus.net).

**ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA ENTERPRISE SQUARE**, #100, 100 ASPEN AVE., 422-6221 Unit FEB 17 "FA Valley: Towards the Light," an in-depth look at the entrepreneurial journey of the Valley. Unit JAN 6 "Fun House," nine Canadian contemporary artists' artistic convention to the outside world. "The 1950 Ford Show," 100 artists present 100 paintings of a 1950 Ford from memory. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-30 am, Sat 10-5 pm, Thu 4-8 pm free admission. Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. [www.artgalleryalberta.com](http://www.artgalleryalberta.com).

**ARTISTS HAD STUDIO GALLERY** 380 FL., 1027-1016 ST., 422-9132 Unit JAN 12 "11404," works by Monica Pitre, Susan Williams, Andrea Pinheiro, and guest artists. Hours: Tue-Fri 5-8 pm, or by appointment. Closed DEC 22. Info: [artistshadstudio.com](mailto:artistshadstudio.com).

**BENJAMIN LAW GALLERY** 10403-124 ST., 482-1204. Info: [benjaminlawgallery.com](mailto:benjaminlawgallery.com).

**BULLE CURVE GALLERY** GLENVIEW REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, 10230-311 AVE. Unit JAN 12, "The Canadian Alpine Connection," recent prints and paintings by Gordon Cuyler. "The Useful Lessons of Plants," encaustic paintings by Malena Wyman. Hours: Daily 7:30 am-2:30 pm.

**CELEST D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA** 9103-95 AVE., 426-3472 Unit DEC 20 "Minerals and More," group show and miniature paintings, Christmas cards, and watercolors by Judith Kubic. DEC 21 FEB 15 Group Show, a selection of works by gallery members.

**COLLECTIVE CONTEMPORARY ART** 6507-117 AVE., 491-0901. Info: [www.collective.ca](http://www.collective.ca).

**CHRISTIE BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY** 9627-82 AVE., 428-8200 Unit DEC 31, Edmonton artists at Red on Whyte from the collection of Christie Bergstrom and David Murray. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm.

**DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY** 10332-124 ST., 488-4445 Unit DEC 20 Christmas show. Opening reception by Ted Kerr. Hours: Tue-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Info: [douglasudellgallery.com](mailto:douglasudellgallery.com).

**ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO** 12419 STONY PLAIN RD., 482-1402 Collection 2007 Jewellery and ornaments by Wayne MacKenzie, Janet Stein, Meghan Wagg, John Blair & Jackie Macaron, paintings by Sophia Polyrhoda-Shaw. Jeff Collins:

woodwork by John Morel, Henry Schlosser, George Heagle; glasswork by Robert Heid, Jeff Holmwood, Todd Sahonovich; ceramics by Karina Charoy, Christian Ben, Ennen Kefel, wash-charges by Terry O'Connor; photography by Lori Ann Blumens. Info: [www.electrumdesignstudio.com](mailto:www.electrumdesignstudio.com).

**EXTENSION CENTRE** GALLERY 280 FL., U.O.F. A HOSPITAL, 403-112 ST. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-4 pm. Info: [www.extensioncentre.ca](http://www.extensioncentre.ca).

**FAB GALLERY 1-PINE ARTS BUILDING 116 OF A CAMPUS** Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm. Sat 12-5 pm.

**FRINGE GALLERY** 10516 WHYTE AVE., 422-0240 Throughout DEC Gallery closed for maintenance. JAN 2-31 Tom Yokes show show. Info: [www.painpoint.ca](http://www.painpoint.ca).

**FRONT GALLERY** 1232 ASPEN AVE., 488-2952 Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm. Sat 12-5 pm.

**GALLERY AT MILNER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY** #7 CHURCHILL SQUARE Unit DEC 31 "Clings," group show by recent U of A BFA graduates.

**HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY** 380 FL., 1027-1016 ST., 426-4100 Unit DEC 22 "The New Alchemists," sculpture by Blati Brennan and Catherine Burgess. Info: [www.harcourthouse.ab.ca](http://www.harcourthouse.ab.ca).

**JEFF ALLEN GALLERY** STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10893 UNIVERSITY AVE., 438-5807 Unit JAN 2 Christmas show and sale. Hours: Mon-Thu 9 am-4 pm.

**JOHNSON GALLERY** 771-85 ST., 465-6771 Edmonton Oil Painters, artists working in studio throughout the season. Artists featured include Susan Abma, Susan Box, Shari Honey, David Brooks, Margaret Mappstein, Tracy Mardon, Anne McCormick, and Cindy Revell. Info: [susanabma.com](mailto:susanabma.com).

**LANDO GALLERY** 11310-105 AVE., 990-1181 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm. Sat 12 am-4:30 pm. Info: [www.landogallery.com](http://www.landogallery.com).

**LATITUDE 53** 10248-106 ST., 423-5553 JAN 11-FEB 9 "Sonic Clings," wood objects by Catherine Bechard and Sabina Hudon. Opening reception JAN 11, 6 pm. Artists talk JAN 12, 2 pm. Hours: Tue-Fri 10 am-6 pm. Sat 12-5 pm. Info: [www.latitude53.org](http://www.latitude53.org).

**LOFT GALLERY A.J. OTTEWELL CENTRE** 590 BROADMOOR BLVD., SHERWOOD PARK, 467-4481 Unit JAN 5, affordable art for Christmas, suitable for home, office, or gifts. Includes new works by Deanna Corrigan, Christine Allard, Kaye Ackerman, Jolene Thompson, Mary Deconne, Janine Bonant, and Lyndia Macdonald. Hours: Sat 10 am-4 pm (except holiday weekends). Thu 5 pm. Info: Kaye 467-4481.

**MCKILLEN GALLERY** 840-112 ST., U.O.F. A HOSPITAL, 407-7152 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm. Sat-Sun noon-6 pm. Admission free.

**MULTICULTURAL CENTRE PUBLIC ART GALLERY** 541-57 ST., STONY PLAIN Hours: daily 10 am-4 pm.

**NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE** 904-111 AVE., 474-7611 Unit DEC 31 "Under the Influence," artists with disabilities present unique interpretations of people who inspire and influence their daily lives. Studio hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-2 pm. Gallery hours: Mon-Wed 8 am-9:30 am, Tue & Thu 9:30 am-4 pm & 6-8 pm. Info: [www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca).

**OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO** 12214 ASPEN AVE., 378-0240 Ongoing displays include Zimbabwian stone sculpture, paintings by Alberta artists, Romanian blown glassware by Ilia Taniolan, glass jewelry by Braden Hammond, and stoneware pottery. Info: [www.outofthefirestudio.com](http://www.outofthefirestudio.com).

**PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY** 10212-112 ST., Unit JAN 5, "Fireworks: Silver and Steel" sculptures by Isla Barans and Karen Cantine. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: [www.peterrobertsongallery.com](http://www.peterrobertsongallery.com).

**PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 2** 12304 ASPEN AVE., 455-7075 Unit JAN 5 Group show featuring Althea Echert, Phil Darragh, Peter von Tiesenhausen, David Janzen, David Cantine, Linda Lindemann, Jonathan Forrest, David Alexander. Hours: Tue-Sat 11 am-5:30 pm. Info: [www.peterrobertsongallery.com](http://www.peterrobertsongallery.com).

**PICTURE THIS 959 ORZEL RD., SHERWOOD PARK** 489-9530 pm. Info: 467-3038 or [picturethis@telus.net](mailto:picturethis@telus.net).

**PLANET Z DESIGN CENTRE** 10055-90 AVE., 429-8999 Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Sing Fernandes, metal sculpture by Linda Maines and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maku and Tim Rechner.

**PORTAL GALLERY** 3414-91 ST., 702-7522 Unit DEC 31 "Medley Fields" by Giselle Denis. Hours: Tue-Fri 12-8 pm. Sat 12-3 pm.

**PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY** 112 PERRON ST., ALBERTA 460-4310 Unit DEC 22 "Guided," works by artists from St. Albert Civic Visual Arts Council and St. Albert's five art guilds.

**PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA** 8555 ROBERT RD., 427-4750 Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-4:30 pm. Wed 9 am-9 pm. Info: [www.tprc.gov.ab.ca/paa](http://www.tprc.gov.ab.ca/paa).

**ROWLES & CO. LTD.** MEZZANINE LEVEL, 1030-103 ST., 426-4035 Info: [www.rowles.ca](http://www.rowles.ca).

**SCOTT GALLERY** 1841-141 ST., 488-3840 Unit DEC 22 "Christmas Treasures," textile based landscapes by Martha Cole, and fold-out panoramas watercolor landscapes by Robert Sinclair. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: [www.scottgallery.com](http://www.scottgallery.com).

**SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY SHERWOOD PARK**, 667-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst U. Info: [www.horst-ut-sculpture.ca](http://www.horst-ut-sculpture.ca).

**SELFIDGE POTTERY STUDIO** 9844-48 AVE., 439-4296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: [www.selfidgepottery.com](http://www.selfidgepottery.com).

**SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS** 10309-97 ST., 427-1489 Hours: Tue-Sat noon-5 pm. Info: [snapsociety@telus.net](mailto:snapsociety@telus.net).

**STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES** 80 ASH ST., SHERWOOD PARK, 426-8197 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. Info: [www.strathconaarchive.museum.ca](http://www.strathconaarchive.museum.ca).

**STUDIO GALLERY** 112 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERTA, 460-5993 Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm. Sat 10 am-4 pm.

**TELLUS WORLD OF SCIENCE** 1271-142 ST., 457-3344 Permanent Exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Green House, Space Place, Discoveryland, and Dandelion in the Explorer Gallery. Synthetic Science Stage features Sci-ence Demos, Cytogenetics, Electricity, and What Puts The Fire In Soda Pop. Info: 439-3344. [www.tellusworld.com](http://www.tellusworld.com).

**TU GALLERY** 10718-124 ST., 452-9662 Info: [www.tugallery.ca](http://www.tugallery.ca).

**URBAN ROOTS** 10418-82 AVE., 438-7978

**VAAA GALLERY VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION** 380 FL., 1027-1016 ST., 427-1731 Unit DEC 22 "Passages," photography (11) Leona Olavsen and metal sculpture (11) Audia Semelbacher. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-4 am, Sat 12-4 pm.

**WEST END GALLERY** 12300 ASPEN AVE., 488-4896 Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: [www.westendgallery.ca](http://www.westendgallery.ca).

**WORKS GALLERY** 4000, 10225-100 AVE., 426-2122 Hours: Mon-Fri 12-5 pm. Info: [www.theworks.ab.ca](http://www.theworks.ab.ca).

**ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY** A SELENDIPITY FRAMING 9860-90 AVE., 433-0388 Amethyst/Mosaic jewelry & all works by Canadian and Mexican artists and artisans. Hours: Tue & Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thu & Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat noon-8 pm, Sun & Mon noon-5 pm.

**ZOCALO** 10326-945 ST., 428-0554 International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. Hours: Mon-Wed 8 am-10 pm, Thu-Fri 9-9 pm, Sat 9-5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm.

**Festival passes** \$56, \$36 student/senior, single tickets \$18, \$14 student/senior, at TIX.

**THE CHRISTMAS CAROL PROJECT** Unit DEC 22 8 PM. ROXY THEATRE, 10708-124 ST. A musical version of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, featuring Phil Bourne, Terry Morrison, and Kenneth Brown. Presented by Brass Monkey Productions. Dec 12 matinee 2 pm, no shows Dec 17 & 18. Tickets \$30 advance at TIX, \$35 in the show.

**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** DEC 20, 7 PM. VARSONA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE. Yetta Quindica presents a live radio version of Frank Capra's film classic, featuring Leona Bouviers, Jeff Haslam, Doreen Stewart, Ben Pederson, and more theatre favorites. Tickets \$25 advance - 439-1399.

**THE MIGHTY CAROLINGS** JAN 10-20 4 PM - 10 PM. SPACES, 7036-103 ST. Workshop West presents: Collor Day's take of the theatrical version of Carol and the two adult versions of the story. Tickets \$18-22 at TIX or at the door. Info: [www.workshopwest.org](http://www.workshopwest.org).

**OH SUSANNA CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** DEC 22 11 PM. VARSONA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE. A seasonal salute to the solstice, and the end of the year. Susanna Pethouli. Special guests include Dorian Higgins, and a cappella trio Asam. Info: [www.susannaconcerts.com/susanna](http://www.susannaconcerts.com/susanna).

**RAPID FIRE THEATRE** DECEMBER 11 & 12 PM. VARSONA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE., 448-0888 TheatrePops Fridays, Christmas Saturdays, \$10 at the door. Info: [www.rapidfiretheatre.com](http://www.rapidfiretheatre.com).

**SOUTH PACIFIC** DEC 21-22 7-9 PM, JAN 2-5 7-9 PM, DEC 26 & JAN 1. FESTIVAL PLACE, 100 FESTIVAL MAX, SHERWOOD PARK. Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway classic. Tickets \$27-55 children, at TM or the Festival Place box office. 449-3318.

## LIVE COMEDY

**RAPID FIRE IMPROV VARSONA THEATRE**, 10239-83 AVE., 448-0888 TheatrePops Fri 11 pm, Christmas Sat 11 pm. Info at the door.

**THE COMEDY FACTORY** 8400, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD., 465-4999 DEC 20-22 Dennis Ross. Regular shows Thu & Fri 8-10, Sat 8-10 & 10-30, Sun 12-5 pm. Info: [www.thecomedyfactory.com](http://www.thecomedyfactory.com).

**THE COMIC STRIP-BURBORN ST.** WEST EDMONTON MALL, 483-5999 DEC 20-21 Matt Sadler w/ Dan Rindbich, Matt Wojcik, and Kelly Salcedo. Live & Miss Dancers, amateur comedy for audience approval. Tuesdays Alternative Comedy Night.

**YUK YUK!** LONDONERRY MALL, 66 ST. & 137 AVE., 481-9857 Tuesday Amateur Night w/ Ben Mink. Info: [yukyuk.com](http://yukyuk.com).

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# I Can't Give You Anything But Vanilla Sex, Baby



**SAVAGE LOVE: OAN SAVAGE**  
**I DON'T MIND INDULGING MY**  
**DIAPER-LOVING BOYFRIEND,**  
**BUT HOW CAN I GET HIM TO**  
**MAKE LOVE LIKE A NORMAL**  
**PERSON ONCE IN A WHILE?**

I'm a 21-year-old female and I know the my-boyfriend-has-a-diaper-fetish thing has been done to death. But...

We've been together for two years. When he mustered up the courage to tell me about his fetish, I was supportive even though it did seem odd. To be completely honest, he's so good-looking and such a wonderful guy that I was worried about losing him if I seemed less than ecstatic.

Flash-forward a year and a half. We're very close, we're in a really good place, and we want to get married. However, his fetish has started to bother me. In the beginning he wanted me to talk

down to him, he'd come in his diaper, and we were done. We'd do that roughly once a week. Now it's all he ever wants to do and "normal" sex is off the menu. And his fetish has progressed to these elaborate role-play scenarios complete with "sissy outfits." Sometimes it takes a whole day of role-playing to satisfy him and he makes me feel guilty if I refuse.

I know he's attracted to me—my attractiveness is a significant part of the role-playing—but I feel like he's being selfish. I also don't want him to do what I want just for the sake of doing what I want. I'm getting sick of this inner dialogue. What do you think? And please don't pass me up because you've answered infantilism questions in the past.

*Sick Of Diapered Sissy*

You're right, SODS—we have done the my-boyfriend-has-a-diaper-fetish thing to death. In fact, I responded to a woman who signed herself Beyond Annoyed in February; she was married to a diaper-loving adult baby who was neglecting her desire for vanilla sex. Now normally I wouldn't run a letter from a reader with an identical problem, SODS, but I'm

going to make an exception in your case. No need to thank me.

Thank O.J. Wandrisco.

Wandrisco is the director of a Christian youth group in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and to "break the ice" at a recent meeting, Mr. Wandrisco sent three teenage boys—14-year-old boys—into a restroom with an older teenager. The boys were given "adult" diapers, bibs, and bonnets and directed to take their clothes off and put the diapers, bibs, and bonnets on." the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported. "The boys returned to the group, where they were asked to sit in the laps of three girls. The girls spoon-fed baby food to the boys and then gave them baby bottles filled with soda pop. The first boy to finish was the winner."

Putting horny 14-year-old boys in diapers and plopping them on the laps of teenage girls for a little spoon- and bottle-feeding: thus are lifelong fetishes born. Not that I have anything against fetishes, lifelong or temporary, or the kind of formative life experiences that create 'em. I live in the house that fetishes bought, after all. But can you imagine the uproar from Christian groups if a gay youth group employed similar ice-breaking techniques?

A spokesman for the Christian youth group told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that they've been doing this "skit" for years; they also do a "skit" where girls eat chocolate pudding out of adult diapers. The spokesman also insisted that the boys from Mt. Lebanon "had fun" in those diapers. I'll bet they did—and odds are good that they're going to be having fun in diapers for the rest of their lives.

Okay, SODS, here's the advice I offered Beyond Annoyed: "Cut the brat off—no more baby games until he can successfully wrap his bonnet around this: Your pleasure matters as much as his does. He may not be interested in regular sex, but he needs to learn to take it convincing. And finally, BA, tell him that his continued failure to meet your vanilla needs is gonna get his diapered ass [dumped], leaving him single and shit out of luck, sex-partner-wise, for the rest of his adult infancy."

I frequently caution vanilla types not to leave folks on account of their kinks. "Dump the honest foot fetishist," goes the Karmic Rule Of Kink (KROK). "and you will marry the dishonest necrophiliac." So good on you, SODS, for the way you handled your boyfriend's revelation. But KROK applies to kinksters, too. A lucky kinkster with an indulgent vanilla partner who fails to joyfully accommodate his partner's desire for "normal" sex is gonna get his ass dumped and then he's never gonna get his kinky rocks off again without having to pay a pro \$500 an hour to put up with his bullshit.

Of course, your boyfriend may not believe that he's neglecting your needs. Concerned about seeming "less than ecstatic" when he broke the news, since he's so good-looking you were afraid of losing him, your feigned enthusiasm may have led him to believe that you find his kink just as exciting as he does. If that's the case, you're going to have to take it back without making him feel violated. So when you cut him off, SODS, tell him that neither of you will be enjoying his kinks until vanilla sex is back on the menu.

I am a 26-year-old gay man living in Boston. I recently started dating a man in his 30s whose biggest turn-on is having a guy lick and kiss the bottoms of his feet. At first I enjoyed watching him get so much satisfaction while I licked and kissed his feet. But now I'm feeling uneasy. He has started asking me to get naked

and worship his feet while he remains clothed and engages in nonsexual activities—things like watching TV, eating dinner, or just sitting back and having a smoke. I'm concerned that he's degrading me. I do have to say he more than gets me off after I do this for him. But I don't want to be in a relationship based on my being degraded—as good as it may feel to both of us.

Do I put up with feeling degraded and stick around for the great sex? Do I tell him how I'm feeling?

*New Foot Licker*

His biggest turn-on is having his feet "worshipped," he wants you to worship said feet while he ignores you, and he remains fully clothed while you slobber away bare-ass naked—uh, NFL? This scenario is all about degradation, about you debasing yourself to affirm his sexual dominance. So long as he's only interested in degrading you when you're having sex, NFL, and not interested in degrading or dominating you 24/7, then you're not in a relationship "based on [your] being degraded," but in a relationship with someone turned on by role-playing degradation scenarios.

Does his desire to have you worship his feet while he engages in nonsexual activities—TV, meals, smokes—represent an outside-of-sex slippage? Not so long as hot sex follows your degradation, NFL. You see, your slobbering and your nudity transform whatever "nonsexual activities" he's engaging in—or pretending to engage in—into highly charged sexual activities. When you're not naked on the floor licking the bottoms of his feet, NFL, then watching TV is just watching TV. But when you are on the floor licking the bottoms of his feet, watching TV is foreplay.

Finally, NFL, of course you should tell him how you're feeling. You should also ask him where, if anywhere, this is going. Is this scenario—you completely nude, worshipping his feet while he, fully clothed, ignores you—the end point? Is it his ultimate turn-on? Or is he grooming you for more degrading tasks? But first ask yourself this: "What if his answer is yes?"

Download *Savage Lovescast* (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [www.thestranger.com/savage](http://www.thestranger.com/savage).  
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# Make Your Lover Look Cheap



**MY MESSY BEDROOM JOSEY VOGELS**  
**HEY, PENNY-PINCHERS: YOU**  
**CAN FIND ALL THE EQUIPMENT**  
**YOU NEED FOR A NIGHT OF HOT**  
**SEX IN ONE DOLLAR STORE**

I know you wanted to get your sweetie that expensive leather harness and strap-on dildo for Christmas this year. Or that fancy gold-plated \$300 vibrator. But damn, you went and blew your holiday budget on a new microwave for mom and power tools for dad. Not to worry.

There are plenty of affordable sex toys out there—and I don't mean the crappy, overpriced ones in some of

spanking? Why pay big bucks for those fancy leather paddles you can buy in those intimidating sex-shop specialty rooms when you can buy one of those paddle-and-ball games at the dollar store? Simply detach the rubber ball and start paddling! If you discover spanking isn't your thing, you can always re-attach the ball and still get hours of fun out of your purchase.

I found a nice black nylon blindfold at the drugstore for a couple dollars. It's made to wear while you're sleeping, but you can put it on your partner while they're tied up with the skipping rope and you're spanking them with your new wooden paddle.

Looking for romance? For a couple bucks back at the dollar store, you can pick up some baby oil, a few scented candles, and maybe a bubble-blowing kit. Splurge on a \$10 bottle of wine and you've got a whole night of fun for under \$20.

**WHY PAY BIG BUCKS FOR A FANCY LEATHER PADDLE WHEN YOU CAN BUY ONE OF THOSE PADDLE-AND-BALL GAMES AT THE DOLLAR STORE? SIMPLY DETACH THE RUBBER BALL AND START PADDLING!**

the less, shall we say, *tasteful* sex shops out there. You just have to get creative. And know where to look. Like the dollar store.

How about a neon-green feather duster? Fun for tickling and teasing. Toss on an apron and some high heels and nothing else and you can play maid.

If you're into role-playing, most dollar stores carry an array of sheriff toys to suit every budget. The deluxe \$5.99 kit I splurged on comes complete with badge, handcuffs, and a billy bat with a ridged handle so it doubles as a prop and a dildo (though you might want to slip a condom onto it first, given the crap they're finding in toys these days). Arrest your sweetie, handcuff him to the bed, and read him his rights.

Water pistols are also fun sex toys. Great for water sports, without the pee (of course, you can fill it up with whatever you like) or staging a private wet T-shirt contest. Water pistols come in a variety of shapes, sizes and prices. I found a lion-shaped gun that spits water out of its mouth. It might be just the thing to bring out the animal in you.

If you want to experiment with a little S&M or bondage but you're not sure you're ready to make the often hefty investment for the gear, try a dollar-store skipping rope. Use it to tie your partner up or turn it into a lasso and play Wild West.

Want to give your partner a good

pinch as hard

A rather talented friend of mine put a pair of chopsticks to good use by inserting them in her vagina (cautiously!) and attempting to feed her lover with them. Work those PC muscles, girl!

Fruits and veggies are always a fun, economic alternative. Condom covered cucumber, anyone? Or how about offering your sweetie a cho-

late sundae? Served off your naked belly!

Apparently, other supplies will even do it: a pinch. One woman I know says she got creative with a pen once when she found herself getting hot and bothered in her cubicle at the office, while another woman who repairs old books for a living told me she's found new uses for the electric eraser she uses to rub

out pencil marks in old books. She keeps her pants on, naturally. This is her professional tool we're talking about, after all.

So you see, you don't have to spend a fortune to get your sweetie (or yourself) some nifty sex toys this Christmas. You just need a little imagination.

Happy holidays!

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### Year Round

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never done this b4 but I saw your beautiful smile 6pm as you left two del mar st 15th chubster 42 y of mind dring alone I was hoping next time to be dining with you wendelmars@hotmail.com or 431-1046

**190. Announcements**

JOIN NOW! Want to keep your guns, your sport, your heritage, get into the game. Become a Canadian Shooting Sports Association member. 1-888-873-4339, www.cdnhssports.org

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MARITIME DRILLING Schools entry-level training for land and offshore oilfields. Excellent wages, benefits and opportunities to travel. 42nd Annual January 7 - 26th February 4 - 23rd Contact: 1-866-807-3960, www.mldmtdl.com

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**CLASS 1 LOG HAULERS/Ship haulers.** High Prairie. Alberta. Required immediately. Competitive wages. Room supplied - first come first serve basis. Call Dan at 780-523-0211 or email: dan@doeynaka@bucchananlumber.ca

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OIL-BERTA CATS LTD., Barrhead, Alberta requires heavy duty mechanics for immediate employment. Attractive wage incentives. Maintains/serve full line of earth moving equipment. In house training - winter and field - all summer. Phone 780-674-2414. Fax resume: 780-674-2496.

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**PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS** wanted. Good wages, benefits. Must possess valid Class 1 or Class 3 license, clean driver's abstract, H2S and first aid tickets. Please apply with resume and abstract to 403-223-8199. You must be available for a phone interview if required.

**REGISTERED DENTAL Assistant** required by Dr. Ken Miller. Great wage and benefits. Experience with digital radiographs, implants, in-office whitening, veneers, preferred. Apply to Dr. Ken Miller, Box 1465, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0. Fax 780-645-4182. Email: dental@leluis.net

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE** required for your area. Earn up to \$100,000/year. Salary, commission, benefits, lower cost of living. Direct selling experience. Traveling required. The Water Clinic, 850 - 47 St. Saskatoon, SK S7K 0Y4. Fax 306-242-1223. Email: mike@thewaterclinic.ca

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**1600. Volunteers Wanted**

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Depot volunteers and drivers needed by Wacan Food Basket Society (Inglewood, Clearview, Eastwood areas) Please call 413-4525.

**DISTRESS LINE.** YouPhone.com Crisis Chat provides excellent training, career-related support, development, rewarding experience and ensure those in need will have someone there to turn when life hits hard. Call the Support Network 732-6548 or www.thesupportnetwork.com

Do you like to drive? Volunteer to drive fruit but walking seniors around Edmonton. Daytime Mon-Fri. We pay the gas! 732-1221

Ever thought volunteering was for the dogs? Try volunteering with your pet - call Darina 413-4682 (www.pethelpersociety.com)

Ghost Writer. Help a brain-injured woman, mid 40's, write her life story. Volunteer with good listening skills, patience and a computer skills wanted. Commitment: 2 hrs/week for 4-6 months or project completion. Old Strathcona area. Ellen 432-1137, ext. 362

Heart Campaign! Kit assemblies, between now and February 2008 we need you! Set your schedule days/evenings/ or weekends. If you are available for three (3) or more hours per week, for two or more weeks, call the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Now ask for Karen or Laura at 451-4545

HELP to broadcast news nationally for the blind and print-restricted. Email: edmonton@voiceofcanada.com 451-8331.

**HOME CARE** volunteers visit isolated neighbors, go for walks, errands, etc. Home Care Capital City. HomeWork Teams. HomeWork help is needed for children & a stable support to ensure their academic success. 1.5 hrs/week, materials, and support provided. Various locations. Ellen 432-1137, ext. 362.

**Literacy Reading Tutors** needed to assist adults with disabilities learn basic reading and writing skills. Tutor training, materials, and support provided. 1-1/2 hr matches, flexible hours, 10-40 hrs/week. Various city locations. Ellen 432-1137, ext. 362.

Senior companion for senior lady, dementia/Housekeeping, maintenance for roommates. Room & board \$650/mo. January. Call 454-7612 or 996-4862.

**1700. Employment Wanted**

CAREGIVERS/ANNIERS with 7 months caregiver training are looking for live-in employment with elderly, disabled or families needing child care. Toll free 1-877-232-2273 or visit www.worldwidecaregivers.ca

**SKILLED WORKERS/Labourers** from overseas seeking employment in Alberta. Hardworking and well trained. Construction, hotel, restaurant wages and much more. Phone Worldwide Caregivers 780-703-0005.

**2005. Artist to Artist**

Musical friends home seeking musicians for roommates. Room & board \$650/mo. January. Call 454-7612 or 996-4862.

**2010. Musicians Available**

5 piece power drum kit, black & color for sale. Cheap. Only missing kick drum pedal. Deans 454-5764

Basist available for retro cover band. 50/60's/70's/80's Derrick 918-7413

Basist seeks retro cover band. Rock/country/funk/soul/R&B. Derrick 918-7413

Country singer/songwriter/rhythm player looking for a band or other musicians to form band. Phone Rob at 459-4705.

Hack guitar players seeks musical endeavor. Darren 598-1993

Professional vocalist looking to start classic rock cover band. Serious inquiries only. Nevada 267-7644

**2020. Musicians Wanted**

Children of Bodom Cover project is looking for Drums, Bass, and Vocals. Must be GOOD! uke\_s@hotmail.com

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Rock band seeking dedicated lead guitarist. Available 2005. Listen @ www.myspace.com/dirtythabit-603. Ph 726-2994 or Jesse 930-7434

The Ozzy Osmonds cover band seeks bass player. Talent and energy are crucial. Rancor. Goldinger, RNC. Contact: Ph. 432-2352/Email: soarings73@gmail.com

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Guitar lessons - All Ages and styles. 20 yrs. Experience. Visit www.guitarmstrutor.ca or call Billy 490-6169.



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## 5003. Real Estate Misc.

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# CRUISING THE COSMOS

with THE KID DECEMBER 10 TO 26

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

With the Sun entering your sign Saturday, the next week or so'll be the karmic equivalent, if changing calendars. The new one's much the same, but it's empty and waiting to be filled in, while the old one's destined for the bin. The next year'll be a blast 'o' fun if you're not still hangin' onto the last one!

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

All the work you've done hasn't been a waste of time. So there ain't no reason really for you to be cryin'. Sure, it seems now like it was all for naught, but even if it got broken, look at all the pieces you've got. This week, ask the heavens for help puttin' 'em together and they'll help fix it up better than ever!

## PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Although it feels like the cosmos has bombed your base, it wouldn't be that hard to face if you knew what you could do with a clean-sweep cure. Out thinkin' 'bout the days of yore, and make it better than it was before. With a lil elbow grease and some help from your friends, you'll start seemin' success before the year ends!

## ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

Your present struggles more than just a quarrel and though you're the one who's got 'em on the run, it ain't yet time to rest on your laurels. Some pockets of resistance'll have annoyin' persistence and are more than ready to go the whole distance. You're crazy if you think it's done, but it ain't that far from bein' won!

## TAURUS (May 20 - May 20)

You may have crashed 'n' burned, but at least you've learned, and now that lesson's complete. But how, you ask, can you get back on your feet? Don't worry. You have the technology. You can rebuild yourself better than you were before. Better. Stronger. Faster. And just in time for the new year, too!

## GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

You're like a gorilla with a gun. You're packin' a whole heckuva lotta power in the palm of your hand, but it ain't no use to you, 'cause you can't understand how it works or what it's supposed to do. But if you ask somebody this week, they'll explain it to you - then you'll be able to bust out the zoo!

## CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

Although this season ain't supposed to be about material things, you need to focus on business and the modern it brings. You've got the givin' spirit all year, 'cause it's natural for you, but right now, you've got lotta work left to do. This week, the more you concentrate on it, the more you'll see areas of opportunity!

## LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)

This week, when you feel confidence dyin', watch a nature show on your namesake, the lion. Obviously its behaviour it'll be a lifesaver, 'cause when you realize what you are, you'll not waiver in the face of adversity. Once you know you're at the top of the food chain, you'll no longer feel like you have to flee!

## VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

No matter how badly you might wanna kick ass, the best thing to do now is let the time pass. It's not that you're wrong and they can't deserve it, it's just that whatever they got comin', it's better to let karma serve it. Chances are, you'll still get your wish when justice finally brings out their dish!

## LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Although strikin' a balance can be a beautiful thing, eternal equilibrium would be pretty boring. In fact, everything would have to stop 'cause bein' outta balance means energy flow to the bottom from the top. If you're wonderin' what to do when life seems a lil pale, you've gotta shake it up and tip the scales!

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

A foot and their money are soon parted and, luckily, your footloosehood has only just started - it's still early enough to nip it in the bud, cover the wound and stem the flow of blood. Even if you're doin' it outta love 'n' affection, you're startin' a spiral in a downward direction. Remember next week that though it's good to give, you need some yourself if you wanna live!

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Now that the sun's left your sign and you've finished your party with the divine, for the next week or so, it'll be clean-up time. Like after most big bashes, you've gotta deal with the empties, wrappers and ash. The good news is that once things are tidied and your cleaner is done, you'll be ready to go out and have some real fun!

You can contact The Kid at [cruisingthecosmos@hotmail.com](mailto:cruisingthecosmos@hotmail.com).

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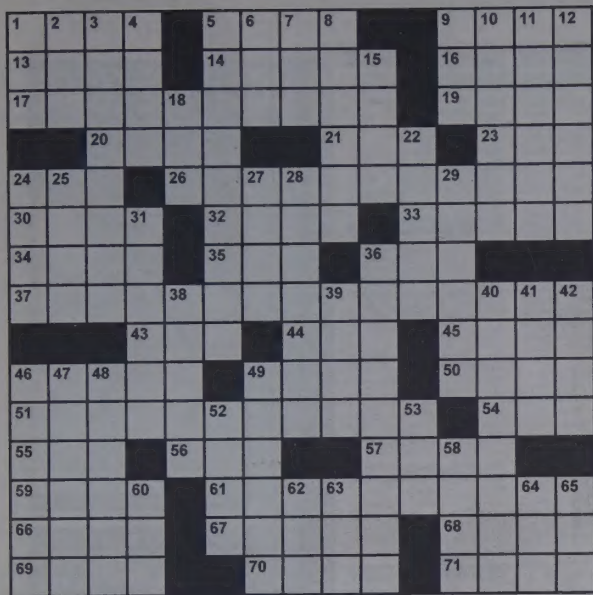
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# I CURSE YOU BUT I'M KEEPING IT NICE

JONES' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

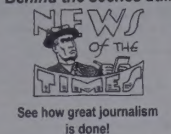
**ACROSS**  
1 One voice  
5 Math course, for short  
9 Way to serve coffee  
13 \_\_\_ Imports  
14 \_\_\_ Sophia (Istanbul landmark)  
16 Feng \_\_\_  
17 "This bug spray's doing me no good..."  
19 Helgenberger of "CSI" and "China Beach"  
20 Soil type  
21 Pink can drink  
23 Word before a maiden name  
24 "No \_\_\_ didn't!"  
26 "The Clintons' old cat just scratched me again..."  
30 Govt. watchdog arm  
32 "X-Men" villain with leaping ability  
33 Pay for others  
34 Bausch & Lomb brand  
35 Disreputable newspaper  
36 \_\_\_ gow (gambling game)  
37 "I just burned all the meat for the picnic..."  
43 Possible tic-tac-toe line  
44 "Can \_\_\_ least get ready first?"  
45 Skater Kulik  
46 In any way  
49 Colleges, in German slang  
50 Make out  
51 "I can't believe I just got three strikes..."  
54 Not neg.  
55 \_\_\_ Tin Tin  
56 Nile biter  
57 Actor Wyle  
59 "In the same place," in footnotes  
61 "I hate that screaming 'So You Think You Can Dance' judge..."  
66 Showed up

**DOWN**  
1 Cop call  
2 Word in many kid rappers' names  
3 David Duchovny's wife  
4 About...  
5 Movie with the line "There is no spoon"  
6 "Gnarly!"  
7 "Can \_\_\_ now?"  
8 Like smart kids  
9 End of a belief?  
10 Monopoly card  
11 "I've got it!"  
12 Take a breather from eating  
15 "Nobody creates \_\_\_ It just happens..." — Jim Henson  
18 Grunge band whose final album was 1993's "Infrared Riding Hood"  
22 Riget, for example  
24 Peon  
25 Command to a dog  
27 Light red or brown, in horse colors  
28 Like some doubts  
29 Starting point  
31 Dome-shaped structure  
36 Anesthetizes  
38 Music in some "Weird Al" Yankovic medleys  
39 "Scott \_\_\_ is 45... and Single"  
40 \_\_\_ in the room  
41 Part of a Caribbean island  
42 Fifth Avenue store  
46 South \_\_\_  
47 Like "Survivor" councils

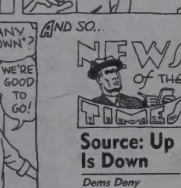
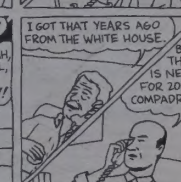
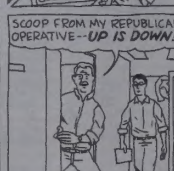
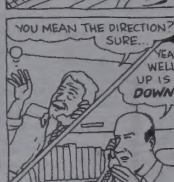
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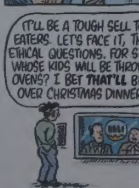
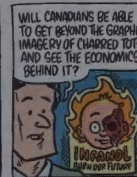
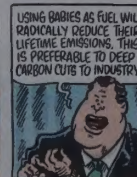
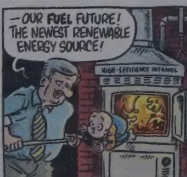
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A memorial service at Knox Metropolitan United Church for the Edmonton chapter of Compassionate Friends, a support group for grieving parents. | PHOTO BY JIMMY JEONG

t6g

LAST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY KEVIN WILSON (176 words)

# He Shoots, He Ignores

A BRUSH-OFF WITH GREATNESS

It turns out that they had lost my girlfriend's bag. The airline touted with us for a few days, but, no... it was gone. Along with her favourite clothes and the Oilers jersey I'd had emblazoned with her musical but lengthy surname, which rhymed with "Winkenkoker." It had taken the jittery sales girl two tries to get all the letters to fit.

I didn't yet know about the lost bag or the many forms that had to be filled out. All I knew was that it was taking my girlfriend a hell of a long time to come out of the International Airport's customs area.

And because this was in the early '90s, before shoes and hair gel became threats to liberty, monitors let me watch her not coming out before she actually failed to come out. I watched dozens of freshly deplaned blobs collecting luggage and then being waved on to joyous reunions or steered towards polite but firm Ca-

nadian interrogations. The luckier blobs passed through the doors and turned into people, first in a trickle, then in a rush, then again in a trickle, carrying off all the greeters who'd massed at the door with me.

Eventually, I was alone. Conspicuously alone. Nothing makes solitude more embarrassing than a deserted arrivals area. And if the monitors were to be trusted, no one lingered behind the stubbornly closed doors.

Should I stay, I wondered, or should I go now? The door to the customs office was locked. No one answered the phone hanging outside. My girlfriend hadn't called my cell, the airport's public address system didn't summon me for consultation. Had she been kidnapped? Was she even now having her cavities spelunked? Had she callously dumped me and made me pay for parking? Perhaps she had gotten on the wrong plane...

At last there was activity on the

monitor. Fresh blobs appeared. Ah, I thought, perhaps her plane has been waiting for a gate. Surely this was her flight. (Mind you, the arrivals area was still empty: apparently my girlfriend was the only passenger who wasn't a friendless orphan.) I took up my position in front of the doors, the better to express my vast relief.

Judging by the first passengers to emerge, however, the first class cabin had been occupied entirely by exceptionally tall and improbably well-dressed lawyers. Perhaps Edmonton was hosting some sort of convention; for, lo, it turned out that gigantic, rugged-looking, snappily attired barristers had also filled economy class.

It wasn't until I saw the coach, a former star defenceman, that I finally figured it out: these were the Los Angeles Kings. And if these were the Los Angeles Kings, then He was on the plane.

I had enjoyed an equivocal, asymmetrical relationship with Him. For His part, He had failed to apprise Himself of my existence. For my part, I had appreciated His contribution to bringing four Stanley Cups to the city. I also respected His above-average skills as a hockey player. On the other hand, He'd always seemed charmless to me. (I understand that

charm plays no part in setting scoring records.) Nevertheless, like everyone else, I felt wounded when He left town for the brighter lights of America, the ultimate slight to the fragile prairie psyche.

A steady procession of Kings filed past me. Some glanced at me as they walked by. "Imagine him driving all this way to meet us, and he's just standing there like a dumbass..." He was the last to come out.

The human condition comprises a small number of visceral impulses, amongst them hunger, lust, anger, and the desire to speak to celebrities. We can't seem to help ourselves. "Hello, I'm here and I know who you are... and, uh... I think you're great..." Multiply by dozens daily. It's a wonder eminent persons don't more frequently wind up in rehab, hairless and gibbering.

I knew who He was. He knew I knew. As He passed, I looked at Him impassively. He watched me warily, with uncomfortable anticipation. Which was His greater fear: that I'd attack Him, or that I'd try to engage Him in conversation?

He walked by, the moment passed. There, I thought, that's a small good deed done.

But, honestly, the smallest part of me was thinking, "Screw you, pal."

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